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Recreation



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February Parties



Here are some suggestions for your February celebrations of such important events as Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays and Valentine's Day. The publications listed may be obtained from the National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York.



Washington and Lincoln Parties

- | | |
|---|--|
| Abraham Lincoln (MP 4) —Games, plays and a listing of plays, music, stories and poems . . . \$35 | How to Celebrate Washington's Birthday (MP 3) —Plays, parties and a long bibliography of material for this celebration . . . \$35 |
| An All-American Party (MB 1373) —Quiet and active games for patriotic holidays . . . \$10 | In the Hearts of His Countrymen —A pageant play on episodes in the life of George Washington . . . \$25 |
| Burying the Hatchet (MB 1914) —Games for Washington's Birthday . . . \$10 | Let's Have a Log Cabin Party (MB 1604) . . . \$10 |
| Fame in February —A reprint on a party of famous February folks . . . \$15 | Our Patriotic Holidays (MP 308) —Program material, crafts, games and stunts . . . \$25 |
| Freedom Means All of Us Everywhere (MP 361) —Program for a patriotic holiday . . . \$15 | Plays and Pageants Based on Incidents in American History, Citizenship and Other Patriotic Themes (MP 252) —A bibliography . . . \$15 |
| Fun for February (MB 1959) —Games for a "hearty" and "patriotic" party . . . \$10 | Washington and Lincoln Community Rally (MB 1600) —Program for patriotic rally as given in Boston . . . \$10 |
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| General Goes Home, The (MP 139) —A playlet for eleven girls . . . \$10 | |



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- | | |
|---|---|
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A Service Organization Supported by Voluntary Contributions

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The continuation of the work of the National Recreation Association from year to year is made possible by the splendid cooperation of several hundred volunteer sponsors throughout the country, and the generous contributions of thousands of supporters of this movement to bring health, happiness and creative living to the boys and girls and the men and women of America. If you would like to join in the support of this movement, you may send your contribution direct to the association.

The National Recreation Association is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpolitical and nonsectarian civic organization, established in 1906 and supported by voluntary contributions, and dedicated to the service of all recreation executives, leaders and agencies,

public and private, to the end that every child in America shall have a place to play in safety and that every person in America, young and old, shall have an opportunity for the best and most satisfying use of his expanding leisure time.

For further information regarding the association's services and membership, please write to the Executive Director, National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York.



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On the Cover

January is the season marked by the ringing sound of steel on ice, of shouts and laughter on the frosty air as young and old take to the nearest pond or skating rink. Photograph courtesy of the Sun Valley News Bureau, Steve Hannagan Associates, New York.

Next Month

We have been flooded with so many letters regarding the article "Whither 'Western' Square Dance?" in our November issue that the "Recreation Comments" pages in February will carry more of these. (See pages 415-416 in this issue.) February will also start "Recipes for Fun"—a new feature presenting program ideas in such a way that they can be torn out and used as leaves in a recreation leader's notebook. Leaders who are looking ahead to the playground season will be interested in articles on surfacing. Good leadership techniques are illustrated in "Using the Resources of Our Community," and the "Evolution of In-Service Training" explains how one community gradually improved this important personnel procedure.

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Recreation

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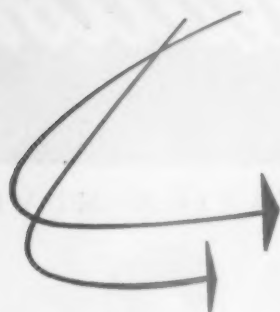
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RECREATION *magazine looks ahead*

RECREATION has been the magazine of the recreation movement since 1907. It has an unbroken record of more than forty-three years of service because it has adapted and adjusted itself to changing conditions and changing times along the way. It first appeared in April 1907 under the title of *The Playground*. This first number carried an emphasis on play leaders and the help which colleges could give in training such leaders. The issue consisted of sixteen pages.

In 1931 the title was changed to *RECREATION*, which has been continued ever since. Since October 1947 there has been a continuous effort to improve the magazine in all its aspects. We believe that the time has now come for another major readjustment so that *RECREATION* may continue to grow and to be the finest magazine possible and of the greatest service possible to the recreation movement.

In my April editorial, I stated that "We are reviewing the place which the association should have in the over-all recreation movement. We are testing the necessity and efficiency of our many services. We are seeking new ways to be of service. We are now subjecting our publications, and among them *RECREATION*, to a careful study."

I also added, "We believe that *RECREATION* magazine should play an important part in bringing us all together to share experiences, to impart inspiration, to keep us ahead of new developments in the field of recreation. We want the magazine to mean more to you than perhaps it has in the past, to be the kind of magazine that you want to receive, one that will bring you needed inspiration, suggestions to

help you do your recreation job."

It seems to us, for instance, that a great deal more attention should be given to the many major problems which every recreation executive must face from day to day—problems of administration, office management, personnel and financing; problems of public interpretations and community relations; problems of procuring, developing and maintaining areas, facilities, buildings and equipment.

We believe that more attention should be given to actual recreation programs and activities so that recreation leaders may be helped in organizing and conducting special activity programs in arts and crafts, sports and athletics, drama, music, nature study and in all the other phases of broad, year-round recreation programs. We believe that activities material should also be included on individual, family and other informal and formal group recreation.

We also believe that the philosophy and history of the recreation movement should not be overlooked, and that the magazine should carry editorials and special articles setting forth the basic values, fundamental principles and the theory of recreation from many points of view.

You will note that the size of the magazine has been slightly increased to bring it to the standard eight-and-one-half-by-eleven-and-one-half-inch size. This will permit us to use either two or three columns on a page, thus giving us more space for articles and pictures and more variety to our page format. The number of pages is being increased and will be increased even more in the future to provide more space for new departments and special

features on such subjects as parks and recreation, schools and recreation, social agencies and recreation, hospital recreation, industrial recreation, state and federal recreation, recreation training, professional societies and associations, as well as reports on new products and equipment, a forum for the exchange of practical suggestions and tips on trends in the field of recreation. New regular features will be added—for example, "Personnel" and "What's New" appearing in this issue.

We are also instituting two definite departments at this time, under the headings of "Administration" and "Program." By means of advance planning for the year, we shall attempt to bring you balanced content—information, ideas and answers to your questions and problems—in these two areas of concern. We are hoping that the "Recreation Comments" section (page 415) increasingly will carry your own opinions of specific subjects presented in various issues of the magazine, so that this page may become an exchange of views and experiences—such as might take place in an informal discussion when recreation leaders meet.

Just what the magazine will contain in the future will depend, however, upon what you, the readers, really want. We will always be glad to receive suggestions on how *RECREATION* can be of greater service to you. We hope to make it the one magazine that no recreation leader can do without; the magazine that will be of the greatest possible help to all recreation workers everywhere; and the magazine that does the best job of interpreting to the public the basic purpose of, and need for, community recreation.

Joseph R. Undergast

The Magazine Grows Up

1907-1951



First issue appeared in 1907 under title of *The Playground*.

The first issue of the magazine measured five-and-one-fourth inches by eight-and-one-half inches, consisted of sixteen pages, and sold for one dollar per year. The two typical illustrations from those early days, reproduced here, show that community centers offered club rooms for meetings, such as that of the Girl Scout leaders, above, right; and see-saws were favorites on the first playgrounds. Changes in the magazine have been the result of steady growth, according to new needs and concerns during changing times.



Typical illustration of those early days.



Whole families tried out the new see-saws.



Size increased and broader title chosen in 1931.



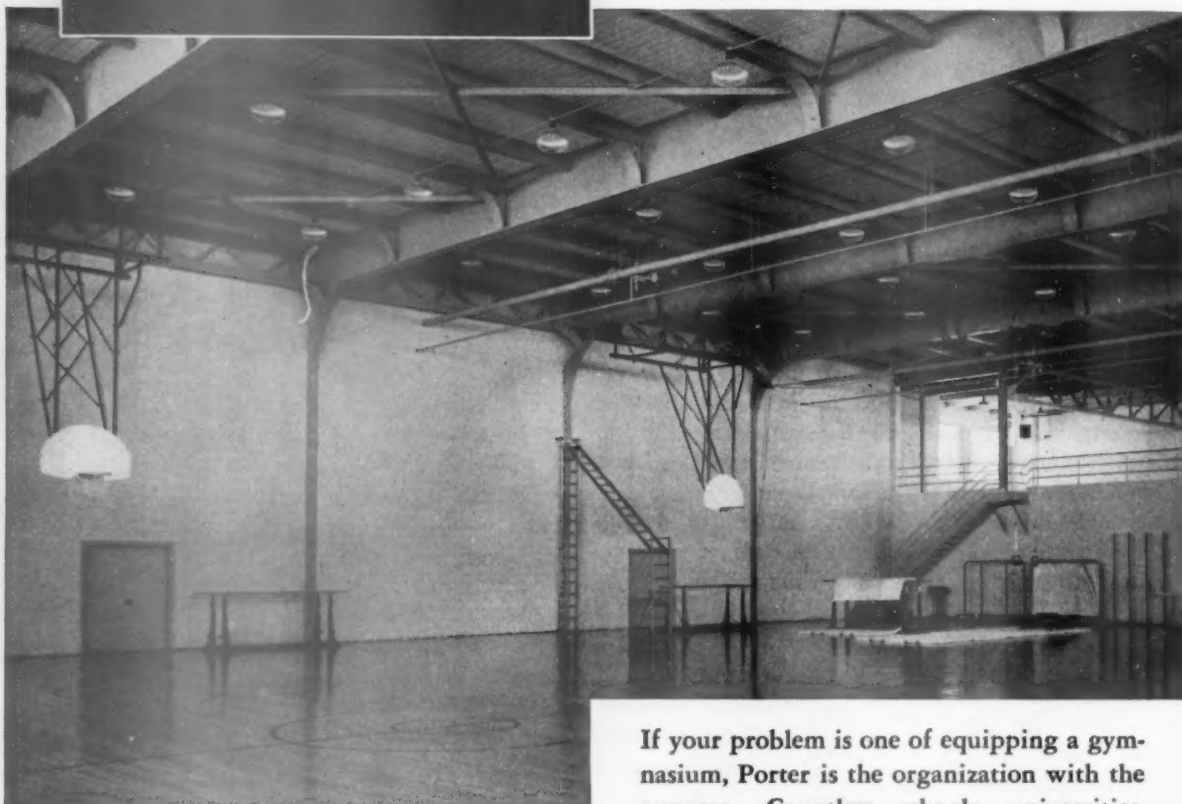
First cover with full photograph appeared in 1948.

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"Whither 'Western' Square Dance?"

Department of Recreation
Seguin, Texas
Sirs:

In regard to the article, "Whither 'Western' Square Dance?" in the November issue of RECREATION, I would agree heartily with the author.

In this area, at the present time, we are being plagued by this "new dance-itis." The more experienced callers, a very small percentage, seem to realize where this is leading us. However, they are helpless owing to the fact that so many newer, beginning callers feel that they must call an absolutely new figure and try to outwit the dancers in order to become popular. A few of the new dances are reasonably good, but the majority are awkward, basically unsound and definitely not folklore. Texas, for example, has a rich heritage in square dancing, and yet many of the good old-time figures have been virtually unexplored.

I am wondering if any area has had this particular problem and has found a way to combat it successfully. If so, I would be delighted to hear from it, as I can see no solution to controlling the influx of new dances.

GEORGE LOWREY, JR.
Supt. of Recreation

Fairless, Vermont
Sirs:

"The Recreation Leader" says a lot of good things that need to be said; let's hope that others will say more to drive the points home. The westerns have made hardly a dent on the consciousness of Green Mountain folk—a little in the way of hearsay, of course—yet the idea expressed by the author, of keeping square dancing simple, free

from complications and within the natural expression of most folks, is a good one to stress in the Maple Sugar Belt. If I were to pick quotations to put into a nutshell I think I'd choose: "... It is good neighbor recreation; its main goal is fellowship — cooperative, not competitive."

HERBERT E. WARREN

Freeport, New York
Sirs:

I give thanks that such an article should be published in RECREATION.

Congratulations. It calls a spade a spade with very few exceptions. It gives the thought of so very many whose voices cannot be heard. It strikes at the very root of the "evil" days square dancing has come upon. It is truth unvarnished.

There will be cries of wrath from quite a number who feel that square dancing is THEIRS and THEIRS alone to do with as they please. The extrovert followers of the guilty will also rise to hurl defiance at "that person" who seeks to speak aloud at what their "grrrrrrr-eat" callers have done to create a "NEW" way of life.

I am happy that the writer has joined in the fight against the few taking over. Real dancers and callers will applaud the article and pray that it will be heeded.

Square dancing is the people's dance. Let those who value recreation keep it that way.

ED DURLACHER

Lloyd Shaw Recordings, Inc.
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Sirs:

It surprises me how completely the

author assumes that city people are not folks, perhaps not even human. They are folks, however, real folks, with perhaps more hunger and more need for the joyous and the good than those smaller groups outside the city who don't have to live the daily strains and distractions of a pavement civilization.

One of the most interesting and encouraging phenomena of the last decade has been the way the city folk have turned to the joy of the American square dance. One of the chief glories of the western dance has been its far-flung urbanization. And from the city, reinvigorated, it is sweeping gloriously back to all the country again.

Your author seems to condemn this, to deplore the fact that the city people should share in this rich American heritage. And he then paints a picture that I simply cannot recognize—of insane people rushing madly through dances that they cannot understand, dressing in absurd and outlandish costumes, kow-towing to the country clubs, eagerly developing social snobbishness, and feverishly living in a state of continual competition.

I have visited hundreds of western dances and I have never seen the hectic insanity your author so unfairly describes. To be sure, folks are folks. And in any group of folks there are bound to be a few fools, a few extremists, whether you are in the city or in the country, in the East or in the West. But they are rare. I have been at country dances so clannish, so suspicious that a stranger felt completely unwanted there. And I have been at other country dances where they made me feel like a king or something very special. I also have met a few unsociable snobs in the city dances, but precious few at that. I have known a few country club groups and have been impressed in every instance by their genuine democracy, not caring that I was a mere school teacher, inviting young people who had neither money nor social position, but who could dance.

Your author's tirade against "gingerbread" and the "rococo" sounds like a leaf stolen from my own notebook. We all strive earnestly to keep things beautiful and simple, and we all have to correct the enthusiast who goes to extremes. But most of us refrain from condemning a whole beautiful movement because we saw one little "silly" whirling too fast for her corner to meet, or because we have seen one New England couple swing until they stag-

gered on the floor.

I don't know more than one or two western leaders who are not completely opposed to "competition" and who are not trying to keep our dancing free from this deep-seated tendency of all Americans. They want none of it in our program of the dance.

I also talked with an old-time country musician last month. He, too, was distressed that people no longer wanted him to play on his squeaky little concertina. The dear little fellow simply cannot make music good enough for a dance. That is his whole case. They accepted him, he says, when the standards must have been very low indeed. I have talked to hundreds of other country people who have thanked us for giving them back their reinvigorated dance on a plane a little higher and more joyous than that represented by the kindly, but incompetent, concertina player.

I cannot help wondering if your author may not be somewhat in the same position. A little overwhelmed by the glorious and joyous development of this rebirth of the dance, beached perhaps in some small backwash of less appealing dancing, may he be munching at a few sour grapes and contenting himself by damning that which he no longer controls?

If he were completely honest and reasonably brave, he would have signed his name. But he has chosen the questionable cloak of anonymity, which no real man can respect, and has painted a picture which no well-informed man will believe.

To be sure there may have been a few too many new dances lately, but we are correcting that. A few extremists may have shown a sudden burst of speed, but we are calming them down. I am sure that I have had to spank gently more excessive twirlers than has your author. But what a fine dog the pup that chases his tail can grow to be. Let's have a little faith. Any new social movement will be troubled by the over-enthusiasm of the young in heart and by the excesses of a few zealots.

But when we look at the whole picture and see the joy that is spreading from coast to coast, we have no room for provincialism and we have no patience with the critic who can't bear to see so many people having such a wonderful and joyous good time together.

Think of the fellowship, the friendly handclaps, the true democracy of a great group of people meeting on the

common plane of having healthy fun together! Costuming, yes, because the costumes are so much easier to dance in (and I wish I had time to prove that; it is so easy to prove); they flash a bit of color as a gay relief from the drab costumes of the business day.

I still remember the thrill of seeing over fifteen thousand people dancing to a single voice out at Santa Monica last summer, in what the police department described as the best-behaved crowd it had ever seen. I saw no frantic rats befuddled in a maze. Thirty-eight different callers, thirty-eight different dances, and everyone dancing with ease, confidence and joy in that great mass get-together.

I remember what this western dance has done for individuals I know, for families, groups and communities that I know. This great, simple, restorative, joyous movement has nothing to do with your myopic author and is sweeping on as one of the sanest and most hopeful influences in this hectic and fear-shadowed age.

LLOYD SHAW

Arvida Athletic and
Recreation Association
Arvida, P. Q., Canada
Sirs:

I saw the western type of square dancing in Boston two years ago. It impressed me very much at that time with its exhibition possibilities.

I learned to square dance on the prairies of Saskatchewan in the twenties, but our square dances were comparatively simple and lacked all the flourish that the modern westerns emphasize.

As a hobby, I have been conducting square dances for the past fifteen years. As a result, a great many people who attended these classes have not only learned to dance, but have become expert callers. One of our alumni, Hart M. Devenney, has a Trans-Canada square dance program, broadcasting square dances from Winnipeg each Saturday night. I have just received a letter from him this morning from which I quote in part:

"My wife and I belong to a club in Winnipeg which boasts about a hundred couples. There are perhaps ten or twelve large clubs in this city as well as numerous smaller ones. I trust that you read the article 'Whither "Western" Square Dance?' in the last issue of RECREATION magazine. The writer was partially correct insofar as the United

States is concerned, but certainly was away off the beam as to competitions and so forth being prevalent in western Canada. They are frowned upon."

I agree with the writer of your article that to have any recreational value, square dances should not be too complicated.

STANLEY ROUGH, Secretary

Department of Health and
Physical Education
University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

Sirs:

Is the square dance a folk dance or a character dance of the people of the United States?

Folk dances may be defined as the traditional dances of a country which have grown naturally and spontaneously from the everyday activities and experiences of the people. They are handed down from generation to generation and are more or less fixed in their basic patterns. These basic patterns may vary in sections of the country just as a basic language reveals different colloquialisms, dialects or changes. The significant fact is that there is no conscious effort to introduce changes or variations. They come about through repetition in the handing-down process.

Character dances are *not* traditional in nature. They are created by individuals through fitting characteristic steps and designs to folk and other melodies. If or when they are handed down, they are added to, or altered.

Many square dance enthusiasts—such as Lloyd Shaw, Herb Greggerson, the author of "Whither 'Western' Square Dance?" and others—apparently consider the square dance a folk dance. Such persons have gone to much trouble to discover, record and teach the dances which have been handed down in various localities. If the above definitions are to be accepted, certainly the square dance is a folk dance. If we wish to develop character dances from our folk dances, then we must continue in the performance of fantastic forms and "gingerbread" calls.

Surely the true love, freedom and spontaneity of dancing can be found in square dancing as folk dancing. The United States, with its background of nationalities, has little to pass on in folk dancing which is traditionally American. Let that little be recognized in American culture in its own right!

DOROTHY LOU MACMILLAN, Instructor

Skiing

SIX FABLES . . . AND THE FACTS . . .



Ira Henry Freeman

NOW ARE WE fallen into the season when four million Americans scan the leaden skies hopefully, hang on the radio's meteorological reports and pray for bad weather. They are the "ski bums," a race of week-end hillbillies with wings on their feet and rocks in their heads.

Ever since the first ski tow appeared in the United States in 1933, the sport has been gradually increasing in popularity, at least among the juvenile and collegiate delinquents. Now, what with continued prosperity, the spreading custom of the winter vacation and the widening appeal of the athletic life generally, the ranks of the slat-happy are multiplying almost as alarmingly as shmoos. If one pollster's guess is as good as another's, the number of skiers in the United States has doubled since prewar days.

Except for contest jumping, skiing is

Digest of "Six Fables About Skiing—and the Facts" reprinted through the courtesy of The New York Times Sunday Magazine.

probably the duller spectator sport in the world. The only way you can enjoy it is to strap on the slithering slats yourself. The kanonen (expert skiers) say that only those who ski ever learn what the fanatics rave about.

The others—merely ninety-seven per cent of the population—get their ideas of skiing mostly from travel folders and the movies. These bear about as much resemblance to the common, week-end skiing that is done in this part of the world as St. Moritz does to Bear Mountain.

It is time that something were done to correct the widespread misconceptions, as well as to guide generations of snowbunnies yet unborn. So here is a helpful sermon on the truth about skiing, presented, as radio announcers say, as a public service.

To dispel the common errors in order of commonness:

The "Freezing" Error

When skiing, you are more likely to suffer from overheating than freezing.

Certainly you will not feel the cold nearly so keenly as in New York most of the winter. The reason is mainly long underwear.

In town, a smart girl wears flimsy whimsies and piles on a woolen or fur coat when venturing outdoors. On the ski hill, she puts the blanket next to her body in the form of knitted "long johns" and wears the thin stuff outside as a windbreaker. It makes all the difference as to comfort (and as to glamor, also, unfortunately).

Another reason why you won't freeze while skiing is the climate. In New York, wet gales whistle through dark, slushy streets in winter. But high in the mountains, the sunshine pours down unimpeded, even by clouds, and is reflected back at you from the counterpane of snow everywhere; and the air is as dry as triple sec champagne. That is why you must guard against serious sunburn while skiing the Alps or Sierras, and that is why you can enjoy an after-skiing dip in the outdoor swimming pool at Sun Valley in February. In March, the weather gets so warm,



SOCIABILITY—Homeward bound, skiers envisage hot drinks, dinner and singing.

you can ski in shirt sleeves or in no shirt at all.

Even in the moderate altitudes of the Green or White Mountains, on many a quiet, bright January day, skiers sit right down in the snow to eat lunch, although the temperature stands well below thirty-two degrees. High wind, of course, is always uncomfortable, but there are not too many very windy days.

Lastly, skiing is exercise, as you will find out. If you do get chilled, perhaps from standing around on a dark day, just climb a few hundred feet up the slope—and carry a turkish towel to wipe off the perspiration.

The coldest weather I ever experienced was thirty-two degrees below zero at Old Forge in the Adirondacks one December several years ago, and it was one of the prettiest days imaginable. The new fall of powdered snow was so dry that it squeaked loudly beneath my skis. Under a flawless blue-porcelain sky, the still air was filled with magical frost sparkles. Since the tourist season had not yet begun, I had the thrill of breaking trail alone through a silent forest of Christmas trees. Only when my ungloved hand stiffened within a few seconds, as I adjusted a ski binding, did I realize

that the air was frigid enough to freeze a man to death without his knowing it.

The "Mile-a-Minute" Error

There seems to be a widespread misbelief that skiing is always done at jet-propelled speed down inclines just short of vertical. Actually, while a few champion racers may be clocked at sixty miles an hour for a minute or two, virtually all recreational skiing is performed at a leisurely pace.

To illustrate how moderate the pace is: every Wednesday and Sunday on Mount Mansfield in Stowe, Vermont, one of the top resorts in the East, skiers race against time down 4,800-foot Stowe-Standard Course. If a man finishes under two minutes, five seconds, he wins a bronze pin. That is to say, if you average twenty-six miles per hour for less than one mile, you are a hot pistol. Most skiers rarely achieve that celerity in their non-competitive sport.

As to those cliffs that look so nearly straight up and down in the pictures, a ski slope with a grade of more than thirty-five degrees above horizontal classifies an "expert," and not one in twenty among any Sunday ski crowd is an expert. As a rank beginner, you will find a mere five per cent pitch in-

teresting (that is about the maximum grade built into a modern highway); while the usual fifteen per cent grade will pose a most frightening challenge at first.

The proper position for skiing requires "vorlage"—that is, forward lean—and a certain kind of knee bend that is considerable strain on untrained thighs and calves. The steeper the slope, the more vorlage is wanted.

Now, unless you are in the pink, you cannot hold that strained posture more than a few minutes without straightening up to catch your breath and rest your legs. Thus, skiers ordinarily descend the mountain in easy stages of 150 yards or so in five or six linked turns, with a pause of half a minute between each stage. Naturally, if a guy happens to stop next to a cute gal, he dawdles for a little yak-yak. In this sociable way, a drop of a mile or two might take ten or twenty minutes.

A word about ski jumping, that spectacular imitation of an eagle you see in the movies. The word is: forget it! In the first place, jumpers are born, and secondly, they begin training in childhood. In the third place, jumping is always dangerous.

But ordinary recreational skiing is not. About three thousand skiers are reported injured each year, and seventy per cent of the injured skiers are beginners or novices. Moral: go to ski school.

The "It's-a-Cinch" Error

Learning to ski is essentially learning to turn the pesky six to seven-foot boards and to stop. Any fool can ride a pair of wooden runners straight down an open slope from top to bottom without control. Too often, alas, any fool does just that.

It takes a long time to learn to ski really well. How long? Well, one of the oldest, most respected schools in New England can make an expert of the average beginner if he sticks to classes twice a day for one month a year for the full four-year course. That would be three hundred to four hundred hours of instruction.

Now, consider that of the ten or eleven possible week-ends in a normal season the average New York ski couple may be able to escape on four, since family obligations and a hundred

other things interfere. That leaves about forty hours a year actually out on the slopes. At that rate, it would take our average couple ten years to become kanonen.

It is no wonder that most skiers, who after all merely want to have a little clean, outdoor fun, regard life as too short for that stuff. So they decide just to ski, picking up what technique they can by themselves, with the result that you rarely see a stylish expert swinging down the trails in these parts.

The "Peace-and-Solitude" Error

With thousands of square miles of national and state forests blanketed by snow, how can it be that crowds mess up the winter wonderland?

The answer is that all skiers are drawn to a comparatively few chosen spots because they can't walk out just anywhere in the hills and ski. Well, maybe they can; but simply to mount a pair of hickory or aluminum runners and take a hike through the woods is admittedly exercise, not a sport.

To make skiing fun requires development and maintenance of the terrain. Since all skiing in this part of the country is necessarily below treeline, resort owners are busy between seasons bulldozing slopes clear of trees, shrubs and boulders, and cutting, grading and banking trails. During the season, the runs must be kept "brushed out" and packed.

Furthermore, you can do five to ten times more "schussing" per day if you ride up the mountain mechanically than if you climb up by muscle-power. Therefore, resorts are equipped with rope tows, chair lifts, bar lifts and tramways to carry skiers quickly and easily to the summit.

It is also convenient to find at the site a lunchroom, rest rooms, ski school, not to mention a first-aid station and a physician on duty.

Consequently, the resorts that offer

wide, smooth, open slopes, served by fast, comfortable lifts, that provide hot food and hot ski instruction, that are within four hours' travel-time of the city, draw the crowds. And what crowds on a bright Sunday!

Throngs on the ski slopes naturally mean long chow lines at the hot-dog counters at noon. The hamlets surrounding ski areas bulge with the hordes that invade them on week-ends demanding food, drink, billeting and entertainment. On holidays, girls will bunk three to a bed; and I have seen youths glad to spread sleeping bags on a living-room floor and pay full rates, too. Landladies have shown me reservations paid for one year in advance.

The "Best-Things-in-Life-Are-Free" Error

Because the woods and snow are free, don't conclude that you are going to ski for nothing. Skiing that is fun requires development of the terrain, remember? Some areas have many hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in them, and customers must pay for that development. Few ski areas charge an admission fee; they make their

money from tow tickets and ski instruction, with a little added profit from parking cars and the sale of food.

Don't forget, too, the inescapable cost of transportation, since the nearest worthwhile ski grounds may be one hundred miles, and the closest first-class resorts two hundred miles, north of the city.

Room and board will set the skier back a minimum of five dollars a day this year. Incidentals—such as tips, between-meals food and drink—add up. About thirty dollars for a week-end in southern Vermont per skier would be minimum—excluding the original cost of outfitting one's self.

The "Long Winter" Error

New England may be mantled in white from early December until April, providing fine material for the calendar photographer, but it does not follow that there is fine skiing there all that time. Ski conditions in the northeast United States are notoriously unreliable.

Generally, there is not enough snow. The terrain at some resorts is so rough as to require two or three feet of cover.

But sometimes there is actually too



CHAIR LIFT—is not for laziness. It adds to skiing time; carries participants quickly to summit; makes skiing fun less fatiguing.

much snow. Only a handful of skiers in this part of the country have the experience to manage their runners in deep, fresh powder. Hence, you will see slopes rutted by traffic to the bare soil, while right alongside is another hill with its virginal snow still untracked. The herd is waiting for the ski patrol to "break out" the new slope by tramping down the thick, fluffy cover with snowshoes and skis.

The weather is so variable that sometimes skiing will be spoiled by rain. Then, as the mercury plunges again, the slopes become one sheet of solid glare-ice, more suitable for ice hockey than skiing. A temporary thaw, common in midwinter, can soften the snow until it is as sticky as molasses.

Reserving rooms in advance involves a weather risk; whereas not reserving rooms risks sleeping in the barn. Con-

ditions can change overnight, so that you may find the resort frozen up or rained out; while an area across the mountain range has four feet of the divine stuff, but no bed for you. Outside of traveling in your own trailer, nothing much can be done about this.

Then what *is* the good of it all? Why not curl up before the radiator and tune in the Philharmonic at home on Sunday afternoons? Well, the day will come when you guess the weather right, when you have learned to christy well enough to attempt Tuckerman's Ravine, say, where there are no crowds. There you will stand above the clouds, in a feathery fairyland, alone or with just one ski pal. You will linger there in that amazing sunshine, gazing at the awful drop ahead of you and kind of wishing you were peacefully dead.

But you can't stand there until spring,

so here goes. The snow hisses under your skis, spraying off the tips in little plumes as you run. Wow! Was that speed wax necessary? The cold breeze brings tears to your eyes, and it is incredible that this wild rush is only thirty miles an hour. Here is a good spot to check, but watch that rock! Now the trail bends to the right, so you must christy on the left ski. No, no, you know you should swing on the far side of the bump. Here comes a sharp left, now a right again, quick. Good. Have the courage to lean forward and you'll do all right.

So it goes, down to the outrun and the picturesque lodge at last. Then a hot bath, a hot buttered rum, a good dinner and some singing before the open fire with your fellow boarders.

Who's crazy now? You, or the cream puff who flees to Florida in winter?

A Message from Robert Sherwood *Noted American Dramatist*



"Drama has great value as a human resource for the individual," writes Mr. Sherwood. "This can be a moving force for patriotism and good citizenship; and it is highly important to bring *living* drama to the youth of America.

"The work of the National Recreation Association in fostering drama has been important for many years. I feel that this is a basic contribution to our democratic traditions. The association

is in a strategic position to bring more drama on a nationwide scale to young people because of its facilities and leadership and its relation and service to the recreation forces of the country.

"The Council of the Living Theatre, dedicated to the furtherance of drama for youth as a preparation for mature living, welcomes heartily the expansion plans of the National Recreation Association and is glad to cooperate in this significant effort. It hopes that all other persons and groups recognize the potent social forces of the living theatre. The two-hundredth anniversary of the American theatre, being celebrated in 1951, is a fitting time to remember that without a living theatre—as opposed to mechanized entertainment—we cannot pretend to have a national culture in America."

Things You Should Know . .

◆ A DECEMBER REPORT of the President's Water Resources Policy Commission to study the nation's water resources and their uses presents a long-range worksheet of national objectives. One of its stated objectives calls for: "Providing for expanding cultural opportunities, including all phases of recreational development, from wilderness areas to wisely-designed artificial multiple-purpose reservoirs." It is further indicated that the recreational use of water resources is one of the prime elements with which planning bodies should concern themselves. Last spring, upon invitation from the chairman of the commission, the National Recreation Association submitted recommendations as to what the basic policy for the recreational use of the nation's water resources should include, and has been keeping in close touch with the commission since that time.

◆ IT IS ENCOURAGING to know that the National Production Authority is granting exceptions to its Order M-4 restricting new construction for purposes of amusement, recreation or entertainment. Word has been received by the Public Recreation Commission of Cincinnati, Ohio, that such an exception will permit the replacement of the Coryville and airport playgrounds. A letter from W. H. Harrison, administrator of the NPA, states: "Our review of the data as submitted indicates hardship will exist if you are not permitted to proceed with the above projects. . ."

Another communication from the NPA indicates that the construction of an addition to the shelter at the California Day Camp and Nature Preserve is exempt from the provisions of this order since "the structure is incidental to buildings used for instructional purposes."

White Plains, New York, applied to the National Production Authority in November for permission to proceed

with the construction of a garage and toolhouse at Recreation Park.

The following extract from the letter of the NPA indicates the basis for granting an exception for this project:

"Based on the information contained in your letter that it is required for the housing of tools and equipment which are used to maintain existing grounds and facilities and that it is not connected with any recreational, amusement or entertainment purposes, commencement of the proposed construction is not prohibited by the provisions of the Order M-4."

◆ AT A DECEMBER MEETING, the executive committee of the National Social Welfare Assembly officially authorized the creation, effective January 1, 1951, of the Education-Recreation Division. This is to replace the Education-Recreation Council and the Youth Division of the assembly. Turning over their concerns and responsibilities to the new division, these two groups presented an effective "last will and testament" in semi-humorous vein, pointing up a spiritual legacy of the fellowship, full freedom of expression and action and the democratic procedures which had marked all their transactions and relationships on cooperative projects when facing a diversity of agency policies and opinions.

◆ A RECREATION CONFERENCE, sponsored jointly by the California Recreation Commission, California Recreation Society and the National Recreation Association, will be held in San Diego in February. Nevada, Utah and Arizona recreation executives have been invited to attend, and Joseph Prendergast, executive director of the NRA, will be present.

◆ SPECIAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCES are being planned in Florida and Georgia for early in March. These will

be sponsored by the National Recreation Association in cooperation with such groups in the respective states as the Advisory Committee on Recreation for Negroes of the Florida Recreation Association and Tampa Recreation Department, the Georgia State Recreation Association and the Atlanta University School of Social Work. The Florida meeting is scheduled for Tampa, March 2 and 3 and the Georgia meeting tentatively is scheduled for Atlanta, March 7 and 8.

◆ RECREATION IN THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY will be the subject of a banquet address to be given by Joseph Prendergast at the Great Lakes Park Training Institute at Pokagon State Park, February 19 to 23.

◆ THE UNITED DEFENSE FUND, INCORPORATED, which represents a federation of national agencies and local community interests for the joint financing of national defense services in the field of health and welfare, was launched November 28, 1950.

Services to receive support from the fund fall into two groups at present. The first group is concerned with services to the armed forces and will be conducted by the American Social Hygiene Association, Associated Services for the Armed Forces (which includes Jewish Welfare Board, National Catholic Community Services and YMCA), National Recreation Association, National Travelers' Aid Association and YWCA.

The second group will provide services to communities congested by the national defense effort. It includes the Child Welfare League of America, National Organization for Public Health Nursing, National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers, National Urban League, National Catholic Community Service, National Recreation Association and YWCA.



those who delight in Music

Sophie M. Drinker

A HARD-WORKING professional musician who had come to our house one day to help us amateurs play and sing expressed his understanding with the remark: "I wish I had time to *enjoy* music!"

In our family, we do "enjoy" music. We enjoy it in the same way that we do our food, our flowers, our pictures, our books and all the other amenities of the good life.

"Our family" may be said to have been instituted when I, a music-loving young woman, married a musically-talented young lawyer. From the beginning of our acquaintance, the love of music had been a bond. Almost the first musical enjoyment we had together was listening to Brahms' *Fourth Symphony*. The inevitable rhythm of the slow movement seemed like a march, leading us on to an enduring companionship.

One of my happiest memories is that of singing folk songs to my children. Every evening, after the last bedtime story had been read, the last toy reverently placed, I would sing three songs. And, now my children's children are asking for the same favorites:

O bring again my heart's content,
Thou, Spirit sweet of summer time . . .

The lovely, spirit-bearing words and a beautiful sleep-compelling melody are capable of charming both listeners and singer.

Downstairs, in the music room, the pianos have always been open, with music on the racks ready to be played. A violin, viola and a flute lie upon the big oak table; a cello stands in the corner. For what diversion is more absorbing than playing instruments of music? Real amateurs—those who love music—find it the most excellent of sports, especially when the sheer fun of playing and singing is accompanied by a blazing woodfire, a cold beverage and tall tales from good companions. A rare experience befell us when the Trapp Family Singers moved to Merion and lived for four years as our nearest neighbors. In a friendly and generous spirit, they offered to let us add our voices to theirs in the privacy of our music room. Best of all were the evenings when Father Wasner would sing some of the Gregorian plain chant melodies and explain how they had

become woven into the marvelous polyphonic motets of the medieval and Renaissance ages. Had it not been for these intimate meetings, we could never have learned to live the music of the church nor to appreciate fully its complex beauty.

Group Equipment

Group singing, indeed, proved to be the most rewarding way to capitalize on musical technique acquired through the years. I discovered that I could participate in much more important music by singing in a chorus than by playing the piano. I discovered, too, the thrill of hearing my own alto part in strength—much greater strength than I could ever have alone—and of holding to it confidently as the other voices mounted and subsided on their own way. The women's chorus that I helped to organize and that sang in our house for fifteen years, as well as our own Sunday evening mixed chorus, has afforded me intense gratification throughout the major part of my adult life.

This mixed chorus is the climax of our amateur musicianship. It began twenty years ago, when we invited a few people to a "singing party." Each year, the party became larger, new singers being suggested by those already initiated. Now the number is pretty steadily fixed at about 120 which, with the small chamber orchestra, constitutes the capacity of the room. Some of these neighbors have been coming practically from the beginning. Some are college boys and girls whose attendance is limited to their college term. A few are transients. Over the years, more than two thousand different musicians have sung with us.

Although "Accademia dei Dilettanti di Musica" is rather a florid title for a group of average American citizens, it is pertinent to every person who comes. In the days when the rich nobles of Italy were the arbiters of fashion in music and the organizers of artistic projects, "accademia" was the word they used for their societies or clubs. There was the Accademia degl' Illustrati, degl' Intrepidi and so forth. So we adopted "academy," in emulation of these illustrious and intrepid amateurs, and added to it "dilettanti"—those who delight. For they had used the word as a designation of worth, not with the modern derogatory connotation of superficiality.

Reprinted through the courtesy of *The Delphian Quarterly*.

We are truly those who delight in music. Our object is to enjoy music as a pastime, as one enjoys a good game and, in the game, to grow receptive to music's magic, recuperative power.

At our accademia, each meeting is complete in itself. There is no rehearsal, no preparation for any other occasion, private or public. We have never given a concert, even for invited guests, and we never will. Not that we do not appreciate choral concerts and enjoy hearing them, but we have an entirely different set of values. The signposts we erect indicate an alternate route to musicianship. We are interested not in what we can do to music, but in what music can do to us.

The compositions, which we select with the greatest care for each meeting, are the best of their kind. "Good music," incidentally, by no means excludes light, gay music any more than good literature excludes *Alice in Wonderland*. But if a vote were taken from the singers, Bach would probably lead in popularity, with Brahms close behind. Our practice is to sing the music in hand over as many times as is necessary for the chorus to understand what the composer is trying to say. Our ability to receive many musical impressions is attributed largely to the fact that our singers and players are trained musicians, well-versed in the idiom of different schools of music. They are, above all, quick and accurate readers.

After the second winter of our musical experiment, my husband decided to turn his hand to conducting and to leading the chorus himself. We both realized the advantage in having the host and the conductor one and the same person. He judges what music to sing, when to repeat a difficult passage, when to proceed to something more rewarding. He appreciates the fact that, in our case, too much repetition and drill would be futile effort and a'so incompatible with our aims. He foregoes the urge to play upon the chorus himself as if it were an instrument—a practice dear to the hearts of all conductors. Many of our singers have expressed their delight in freedom from a conductor's complete domination, in the stimulus to musical responsibility that is thus offered them and in their direct contact with the composer as he manifests himself on the printed page. Time after time, we all have been deeply moved by singing an unfamiliar composition straight through from start to finish without interruption, with only the rhythm maintained and the entrances indicated by the conductor's baton.

Being an excellent musician himself, our conductor knows exactly how he wants the music to sound. Now, if I were to write that our rendition was invariably perfection, I would be indulging in wishful thinking. Enthusiasm—noble word meaning "the god within"—often prevents the diminuendos from being soft and sufficiently controlled; inexperience sometimes causes the volunteer orchestra to falter. But assisted by experts at the two pianos, who play the parts audibly when needed, the voice of the chorus always has a vibrant quality, a spontaneity and a zest that are frequently lacking in an overtrained group.

One Sunday, when we were singing our favorite Bach *Cantata No. 21, Ich hatte viel Bekummerniss*, from the first words, "Lord, my God," to the last "Amen," there was a



When pianos are open, young folks learn to enjoy music too.

feeling of tense excitement, a'most like an electric current, in the room. The high, clear tones of the sopranos soared up and up, apparently without effort. The altos attacked and released firmly, endowing their part with their unique strength. The tenors, and there are always plenty of them, had a particularly virile tone quality. The rhythm throbbed steadily in the bass voices, supported by the organ. When the last note resounded, even before it had died away, the singers immediately burst into applause at their own achievement. They clapped and clapped and clapped again, even stamping their feet, and shouted in exultation—so profound was the joy, so deep-lying the satisfaction.

These are precious musical memories.

People often say to us, "Oh, but you are a musical family; we could never do what you do!"

Certainly every family wou'd not wish to enjoy music in exactly the same way as we do, nor could everyone have identical tastes. Talents, skills and types of ingenuity differ; circumstances and opportunities for the practical utility of acquired techniques vary. We are not especially talented individuals; no one of us could have been successful as a professional performer. What has made us a so-called "musical" family is our *faith* that singing folk songs and Bach chorales with children will establish their musical tastes for life; *faith* that having beautiful sounds float upstairs at bedtime and sink into their subconscious will bear spiritual fruit; and *conviction* that music is necessary for our own spiritual sustenance and growth. What has made us want to share our enjoyment in music with our friends is that we have need of them. Without their cooperation, we could have no choral music at home.

Another element in our success is the point of view we ho'd about the relation of the amateur to the professional musician. The professionals are the specialists who come and go, dependent upon the state of social and economic environment created for them by the people. The non-professionals are the main constituents of any community which values music as a contributing factor to the good life. Their roles are many, as many as there are activities connected with any phase of music. As individuals, certainly, they

may specialize in some chosen precinct of music's vast realm, but as a group, their special function is *not* to limit their interests to any one aspect of music. The essential and indispensable role of the amateur is to broaden the base of musical experience, to experiment, to blaze paths away from the beaten track of custom.

It is obvious that there is today an overemphasis upon the value of exhibition, to the neglect of other outlets for musical enjoyment. We do not learn to play games nor to dance for the purpose of exhibition, but in order to cultivate good sportsmanship and pleasure in movement. Yet from the nursery up through every stage of endeavor, people are imbued with the notion that music *must* have an audience and applause. Education in music is given largely as if the student were going to become a professional performer, although but a comparatively small number are ever expected to be, and a much smaller number become successful performers. Most amateurs spend the major part of their musical time in learning to play and sing for somebody to listen, in helping others to play and sing for listeners and in serving as audiences to professionals.

If we would but realize that this trend leads amateurs toward a negative, passive relation to music and causes them to forfeit a large part of their authority in the development of artistic enterprise, we would surely abandon the idea that the foremost reason for learning to play and sing is to have an audience. We would not limit our interests and capabilities so narrowly, but we would cultivate the idea that music may also be used as a game; an enjoyment that, incidentally, has magic, spirit-bearing power.

To this end, we should make the language of music more familiar to children. We should teach them the rudiments of the language rather than a by-product of it by learning to sing a song or play a piece without having first acquired a sound musical background. These rudiments are: an accurate sense of rhythm and pitch, pleasure in beauty of tone; the ability to read at sight, to write from dictation and to harmonize a simple melody. From such a foundation, a talented person may proceed to the professional level, if that be the level desired, or may take the way of

the amateur with its limitless possibilities for individual expression.

And why stop at singing and playing? Why not learn to wield the baton, too?

There is no reason why an intelligent and musically-sensitive person cannot master the relatively simple technique of conducting. It is actually a much less exacting task than learning to play an instrument or to sing. I do not mean, of course, that anyone with a flair for leadership can become a great conductor. Far from it. But greatness is not here the criterion, nor box-office appeal the value. Men or women, blessed with brains and personality, who devote time to studying choral literature and the history of music and who know exactly how they want the music to sound, may be entirely satisfactory leaders for choruses which have no desire to give a concert.

Indeed, the lack of capable amateur leaders for amateur groups is the most formidable obstacle to choral singing without concerts. Professional conductors must keep in the public eye—or die. They are too busy with the advancement of their careers to work with amateurs in the way that I have described. But amateur leaders, whose music is an avocation rather than a career, are free to approach music from an entirely different and independent point of view. Not only may they give themselves a very good time while conducting, but they may also do their communities inestimable service by offering opportunities for musical enjoyment to more people.

The crying need in the musical culture of today is a reformation of attitudes to allow greater participation of musically-educated men and women in singing, playing, conducting and composing, so that they may both feel and utilize the power of music. For music actually gives access to regions in the subconscious which are inaccessible to many other impressions and which are the very holy of holies of our perceptions. Music may be an important means of helping an individual toward emotional maturity; it could well be cultivated for that reason alone. So, to fertilize the imaginative faculties with activity, to enrich lives, even a few lives, is to add to the spiritual power of all.

This is the way of those who delight in music.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send your new address at least thirty days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Address: RECREATION Magazine, Circulation Department, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label. The post office will not forward copies unless you provide extra postage. Duplicate copies cannot be sent.

* * * *

PICTURES ARE NEEDED for the annual *Playground Issue* of RECREATION which will be prepared during February. We should like to have action shots of all sorts of activities and some successful teen-age and adult playground programs. Pictures of any unique or new activities or equipment, and of arts and crafts, will be especially welcome. Shots of happy faces, human interest are needed. Will you lend us a hand?

All photographs will be returned, if you so indicate, and credit will be given in every instance of publication, so mark them carefully. Send 'em in now; we need 'em!

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Unique new pool, named in honor of the late
General George S. Patton, is a convertible facility

Detroit's

INDOOR OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL

WHEN DETROIT, MICHIGAN, opened its General George S. Patton Memorial Swimming Pool in Patton Park, August thirtieth, it introduced to its citizens a new and glamorous swimming facility. Patton Pool, named after one of America's greatest military leaders, is believed to be the first complete convertible swimming structure in the country.

In summer weather, its huge, glass south and west sliding walls open to the sun and air and to a spacious sun-deck overlooking the wading pool, lagoon and other features of the park. When wintry winds blow, the double sliding doors remain closed to offer the warmth and comfort of an indoor pool and such features as a five-tiered balcony for three hundred spectators, ample space around the water, and far more natural light because of the large proportion of glass used for the enclosures. Hot air heat (the air being heated by steam) is circulated freely throughout the building and through the one-foot space between the doors. In fact, although there's been no chance to test this system as yet, it has been said that the pool can be kept at a constant temperature of eighty-five degrees even though it may be ten degrees below zero out-of-doors.

Costing some \$450,000, Patton Pool is of competitive size, seventy-five by forty-two feet, making it available for championship meets. Its depth of from three and a half to ten feet is in line with such measurements in most pools. Diatomite filters are used with a balancing or surge tank to assure a minimum loss of water to the sewer. The pool is of the level-deck type and the gutters are outside the surrounding

curb, over which a constant flow of water is maintained. A pipe tunnel runs entirely around the pool for easy maintenance. The pool itself is of tile construction, boasting an aluminum diving board priced at \$325 and an underwater lighting system.

Actually, although the convertible swimming facility is the highlight of the structure, the two-story building which houses it also has a great deal to offer. It now contains a warming room for ice skaters, change room for tots enjoying the wading pool, showers and lockers for baseball and football players and other athletes, craft, game

and social rooms. There's also a room for first aid as well as for pool filtration and sterilization equipment and light control. The building, of brick and cinder block, has been so constructed that it will be convenient and relatively inexpensive to erect a planned-for-the-future gymnasium on the north side and to include stage and dressing room facilities and a balcony for spectators so that the addition can also be used as an auditorium.

The Detroit Department of Parks and Recreation is determined that the building shall be a fitting memorial to a great soldier.



ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNING

Its Effective Use

"Planning is the business of preparing for action."

Richard G. Mitchell

PART I

IN MANY QUARTERS concerned with the science of municipal administration, practitioners in the field of recreation are often regarded as persons whose skill and judgment are bounded by the requirements of organizing and conducting a recreation program; thus, for one reason or another, many recreation executives have not been accepted into the fraternity of municipal management.

Inescapably, the recreation executive must expand his knowledge of public administration and play his full part in the partnership of government practice. Unless this is done, the recreation profession fails to make its distinctive contribution to the philosophy and practice of community organization and management, and may very well lose ground when cyclical economic developments compel redoubled government searches for economy and efficiency. While there is time, then, those in recreation must look analytically at their administrative practices and be consciously concerned with the need to improve their staff operations. A useful instrument in this process is "paper work," by which is meant something more useful, more necessary and more difficult than routine reports.

A significant area for improvement in the field of recreation management lies in the discovery, modification and utilization of administrative techniques which will result in a smoother operating agency. Skill in administering a budget or directing a personnel training program is not more important than a thorough understanding of the philosophy of recreation nor than great competence in the design of facilities and areas or expert familiarity with the intricacies and subtleties of program planning. There's no intent to belittle the importance of these components; on the contrary, their value may be increased by development of a method by which they may be more advantageously employed. Therefore, it seems reasonable to claim that good administration is that which will blend philosophy and facilities into a successful recreation undertaking.

The planning processes which are required in securing good administration are necessary and inescapable obligations

of every governmental employee. It is a mistaken notion of more than a few technicians in many fields that their specialized training and high competence in a specific profession automatically bestow upon them an equal skill in the process of administering that particular specialty, so that henceforth they are relieved of the need to be even curious regarding the processes of administration and administrative planning. This failure to comprehend the true role of the executive is today evidence of an undeveloped sense of proper public administration.

A Written Plan Essential

This article deals only with the method of administrative planning which is involved in the actual drafting and utilization of a written plan which will serve as a chart for departmental operations over a span of years. Certainly every recreation executive must have evolved a plan for his department, a mental picture of what he hopes to have the department accomplish in the future. It is unfortunate, but too often true, that this plan is an unwritten affair, carried around in the superintendent's head. Meanwhile his staff associates also are probably carrying around similarly unwritten plans representing their hopes and ambitions for the areas which are their personal responsibilities. When you add to this the certainty that members of the recreation commission and the city council, and such municipal officers as the city manager and the superintendent of education, are similarly "planning," it becomes obvious that there are a great many separate plans in existence. This can mean that portions of the many plans may be forgotten or that the various plans are in conflict with one another because their existence hasn't been recognized. The complexities and responsibilities of modern administration demand that this multitude of plans be brought together, that differences be reconciled, ideas coordinated, and that

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one master plan be developed as an expression of the mutual purposes of all. The master plan to be developed is the executive's counterpart of the architect's blueprint or the conductor's orchestral score.

Administration has been defined as the art of getting things done. Planning is the business of preparing for action; its purpose is to give system and meaning to the chosen action. Good planning is the fruit of collaborative effort by all persons on the staff and of a free flow of information and understanding within the organization. Administration—and the administrative plan—is not something to be imposed upon subordinates. Planning which takes place in an atmosphere of cooperation and respect for the contributions of each participant can be expected to provide the dividends as outlined in the box on this page.

The actual task of carrying out a plan is the function of all the employees, which means that the planning process must include provision for adequate communication to insure that the meaning and intent of the plan is understood by all who must work with its ingredients and contribute to its accomplishment. Such communication must include a clear statement of what is expected of the individual and also illustrate how that performance contributes to the realization of the planned objectives. For example, in the field of education, students are taught by teachers, not by the superintendent of education. Each supervisory level above the classroom represents an area where proper communication must take place if the plan-making which occurred on the several levels is to be reflected in the classroom activity. When planning attains this level, it includes the whole process of organizing, orienting and coordinating an agency's internal and external operations, to the end that its goals are clearly defined and that the steps to be taken in their achievement are logical, efficient and economical.

The function of planning becomes clearer if our understanding of what administration encompasses is sound. Administration is the business of writing a letter just as much as it is the negotiation of a complex agreement with other community agencies to eliminate duplication of services. It is the process of reporting to the city treasurer that the department needs a larger petty cash fund just as much as it is the operation of a city-wide summer program. In short, administration is far more than the textbook picture of participation in, and direction of, epic maneuvers. It is the simple, as well as difficult, everyday acts and decisions which, in the aggregate, become administration.

The Plan-Making Process

Planning involves a selection process. A number of optional courses of action typically present themselves for consideration whenever a decision of any consequence must be made. Some method, some set of skills must be employed in sifting out the particular course to be followed. The perception, the background, the philosophy, the goals of the individual influence the choice made.

Three steps are involved in the plan-making process: (1) The alternate courses of action must be recognized, followed by (2) an appraisal of the consequences which

can be expected to derive from each course of action, with the final step being (3) the weighing of each course of action against its consequences to determine which is the most suitable to follow. If the plan has been worked out in the necessary detail, supported by sufficient background data, the sense of direction which naturally results from such endeavor helps the staff more quickly and accurately to make decisions which are consistent with the goals of the agency.

Not too long ago it was considered sufficient to make agency plans on a year-to-year basis. Today we are beginning to formulate these plans on a long-term basis. This extended planning acquires great value when properly done because it provides the entire department staff, and particularly those employees charged with executive responsibility,

Cooperation Offers—

1. *A means of guaranteeing that the problem has been recognized and studied by the staff, that methods of solving it have been considered analytically and that certain objectives have been set up. (These objectives may be directed toward the correction of deficiencies or the exploitation of strengths.)*
2. *Professional motivation and stimulation. The staff has something to "tie to," a source of direction which gives security and confidence.*
3. *A rational and orderly sequence of administrative and supervisory activities, eliminating vague supervision, meaningless inspections and disconnected staff meetings.*
4. *A degree of agreement and general understanding upon which it is relatively easy to construct the whole process of program and staff coordination.*
5. *A better understanding of the intended purposes of the agency by municipal officers, board and council members and the people of the community.*

with a plan of action which is sufficiently comprehensive to call for, and permit, development of long-range, over-all department organization and policies geared to the plan's attainment.

For completeness and coherence, it is suggested that the written plan be organized into four statements. There follows herewith a definition of each of the four proposed, together with extracts from a plan which was developed to meet an actual recreation problem. While the problem pertains to only one playground and represents a span of only six months, it is believed that the reader will draw from this example an understanding of how a master plan can result from combining a series of such incidental studies.

1. *Statement of the Problem.* (This section should deal with the nature of the problem and a recounting of the methods used in determining the problem. The statement may be brief or lengthy, but it must be clear and definitive.)

Playground attendance was poor. The reasons, as discovered by inquiry among the children who represented the "market," were found to be:

- A. Parents wanted the children home after school, preferring to have them playing in vacant lots or on the streets rather than on the playground. The parents were not convinced that the playground program was desirable.
- B. The children had not found a sufficient variety of activities in the playground program during the past to be interested in daily attendance.
- C. Tackle football was not permitted on the playground. The boys, therefore, were playing in neighborhood lots where they were free of regulation.

2. *Statement of Objectives.* (These need to be clearly stated and must be achievable. Each should be integrated with the over-all objectives of recreation.)

The objectives developed in the case of this particular playground problem were formulated as follows:

- A. To make the playground a desirable and active neighborhood center for the elementary school group whom it was designed to serve.
- B. To secure the support and understanding of the parents so that they would cooperate with the staff in better serving the children of the community.

3. *Statement of Methods to be Used in Attaining Objectives.* (How is it proposed to undertake accomplishment of the stated objectives?)

A. Staff Reorganization

1. To insure that the necessary variety of leadership skills is available;
2. To develop a varied and continuing program;
3. To revamp leadership processes, seeking to make leadership more positive.

B. Public Relations

1. In collaboration with the school principal and class teachers to develop a planned program of advising teachers, parents and children about program offerings. Methods used to accomplish this included:
 - a. Contacts with officers and membership of the PTA to acquaint that group with the problem the staff was seeking to overcome, the reasons why the recreation program was being offered and the recreation leaders' need for the parents' assistance.
 - b. Conduct of school assemblies.
 1. Films depicting recreational activities were shown.
 2. Speakers. (For example, a local college football coach was asked to speak to a special boys' assembly on how to play football. His talk was slanted toward the fundamental needs of learning how to run, punt and pass, and how touch football offered these learning opportunities. He counseled the youngsters to learn the elements of football but to avoid injury which might impair their future playing ability.)
 3. One-minute visits to classrooms by members of the recreation staff to call attention to special activities which had been planned.
2. Utilization of playground bulletin boards, mimeographed materials, newspaper releases and word-of-mouth to call attention to the program. Even such details as the use of colored chalk to letter notices on the bulletin board, and change of location of the bulletin board to insure its placement where it could be observed by a greater number of children, were observed in this campaign.
3. Development of a follow-up system which made possible

inquiry when a child who had been attending the playground for a while suddenly ceased attendance. In practice, one of the leaders would call at the home of the child to learn if he was ill or to discover if there was some other reason which caused the absence which the playground staff could remedy. This provided a friendly and informal opportunity to become acquainted with at least one parent and to chat about what the recreation staff was attempting to do, frequently resulting in an offer of both moral and material support from the adult members of that family.

4. *Statement of Evaluating Procedures.* (The methods to be used in measuring progress of the plan must be set up as a part of the planning process. They should be formulated objectively and, in their subsequent application, the leaders should not claim the occurrence of unexpected events as part of the planned objectives.)

In evaluating the success of the plan, which started out with the intent of increasing playground attendance, a whole set of evaluative procedures was developed. For example:

- A. Did playground attendance increase?
 1. If so, to what degree?
 2. What age and sex groups were involved?
 3. What activities gained the most in attendance?
 4. What was the effect of seasonal factors in any noted increase?
 5. What special and provable evidence is there that any increase noted is a direct product of the plan?
 6. Has any noted increase in attendance become stable, or is it spasmodic and unsustained?
- B. Have relations between the playground staff and the community improved?
 1. What improvements resulting from the plan can be noted in the staff relationships with the school principal and the teachers?
 2. With the parents?
 3. With the children?
- C. How has the playground working situation improved?
 1. In leadership—
 - a. How? (By what changes in technique?)
 - b. Where? (In what activities or situations?)
 - c. By whom?
 2. In program offerings—
 - a. How?
 - b. When?
 - c. Where?
 - d. Why?
 - e. By whom?
 - f. For whom?

In the long-range planning process, an adequate number of goals need to be set up. Within reason, the effort should be to avoid making little plans which have no magic to stir anyone's blood. The purpose of long-term planning is to provide a realistic basis for making big plans—plans which have far more scope than is possible if the plan-making is restricted to the customary twelve-month basis. It is possible to develop a considerable number of objectives for the master plan because many endeavors within a general field complement each other. For example, a recreation master plan that included as objectives the improvement of child health, the provision of opportunities for the constructive use of leisure time, the organization of a more extensive league and tournament program and the preven-

tion of juvenile delinquency would find all four objectives being accomplished simultaneously.

Plan-making will not be found to be an easy process. This is particularly true in the beginning when it will be baffling at times to sort out the items which belong in the master plan and then to do the elaboration that is needed to transform the topic into a course of action. In the initial stages of plan-making, while one is learning what the process is all about, it is probably most satisfactory to undertake the planning in a gradual manner. The executive can draw up as much of the plan as comes to mind, then set it aside for a few days; a second reading will suggest additions and revisions, after which it may be put aside again for further mellowing. Too, the rough plan may appropriately be brought into staff meetings, where other members of the staff can contribute to it and be assigned to start preparation of their own plans and then can begin the process of blending all the parts together.

The planner is cautioned not to concentrate exclusively upon the dramatic and profound ideas, overlooking such necessary parts of a plan as staff training or personnel selection. It is just as important to set up a plan to study ways of reducing utility costs as it is to seek a means of securing a budget increase. A plan which includes a process for

studying ways to produce a more satisfactory Fourth of July program or run a better camp is likely to be better oriented than one which vaingloriously seeks for some philosophic understandings which, at the moment, are irrelevant to the agency's immediate needs and purposes.

Despite all good intentions, planning will always fail of its purpose to the degree in which it is dissociated from the regular business of the agency. In the preparation of a plan, two processes must be utilized. One is the technical process of making the plan and keeping it up-to-date. The second is the managerial process of putting it into effect and maintaining its integrity. One final thing to remember about planning is that plans are only a system of ideas organized and set down for easy reference; in themselves they do not make any changes or improvements and, in their preparation or fulfillment, they are no better than the staff is willing to make them.

Part II, "Making the Budget Worth Every Dollar," will appear in the February issue of RECREATION. In this, Mr. Mitchell turns his attention to management processes which will insure maximum productivity per penny spent. Says he: "Probably the greatest cause of waste in the use of recreation funds is the failure by management to utilize adequately-available man hours."

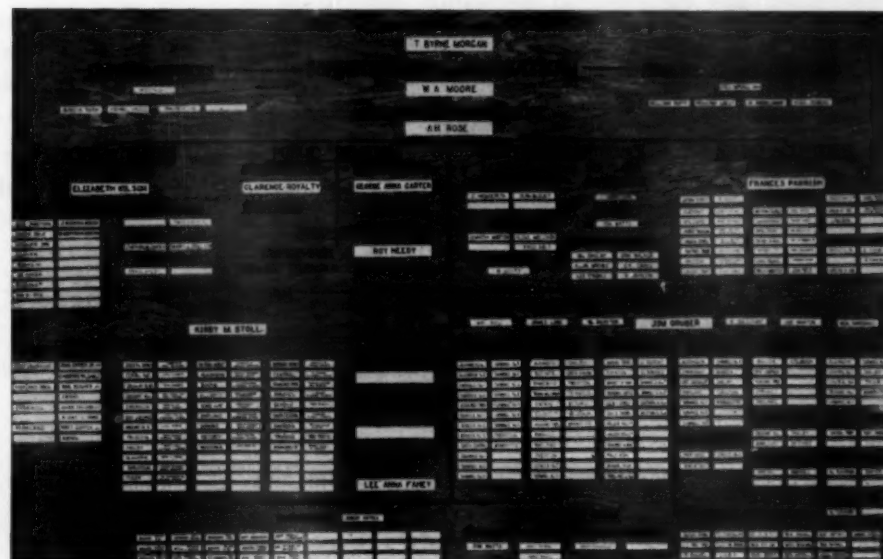
ORGANIZATION CHART

George-Anna Carter

HAVING a personnel layout board designed to give an over-all picture of his large staff was the brainchild of William A. Moore, superintendent of city recreation in Louisville, Kentucky. Like many other brainchildren, this one began on a small scale and was designed by Kirby Stoll, general program superintendent for the division. When Mr. Moore discovered what a timesaver an organization chart can prove to be, he sent the tiny model to the stockroom to be copied. When it was returned, it was eight-by-five feet, and a new home was necessary.

"As luck would have it," he explains, "it exactly fit the side wall of our reception office, and we've kept it there ever since."

Now visitors may have their questions answered at a glance. They can see immediately the various divisions of the department, the names of the workers and their locations. They can also find out where special ac-



tivities are taking place—such as football, boxing, swimming and croquet. Summer playgrounds and their leaders are listed, as well as the Municipal Athletic Commission, athletic associations, teen-age clubs and the audio-visual aids department.

The base of the chart is made from three-quarter-inch plywood. Names are

printed upon heavy poster paper and inserted into metal slots. In this way, they may quickly be added or removed from the list whenever any changes have to be made.

Author is superintendent of public relations, Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department, Louisville, Ky.

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXCHANGE WITH JAPAN



ALL PUBLIC recreation departments and programs are invited to participate in an arts and crafts exchange between the United States and Japan. Plans for this project have just been formulated.

A selection of one hundred Japanese crafts made in the recreation programs in Japan will be displayed at the National Recreation Congress in Boston, October 1-5, 1951. A similar selection of crafts made by boys and girls and men and women in the United States will be on display at the Japanese Congress in Wakayama, August 3-6. The exchange is a cooperative effort of the National Recreation Association and the National Recreation Association of Japan.

Crafts articles to be sent to Japan will be selected in a nationwide competition open to all recreation departments and agencies in this country. Since only one hundred pieces can be sent to Japan, and since the whole program must be very carefully planned, some important rules have been worked out.

Specific Instructions

1. Any hand-made piece can be entered in the competition, provided that it has been made in the course of an arts and crafts program of some municipal recreation department or of some cooperating agency.

2. Judging will take place in New York early in May. One of the judges will be Frank A. Staples, director of arts and crafts of the National Recreation Association. The other judges will be announced later.

3. Articles to be judged must be received not later than May 1, 1951, at the offices of the National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York, in order to allow time for shipment to Japan.

4. Only articles which, in the opinion of the judges, can be shipped satisfactorily to Japan will be included in the competition. Please do not submit fragile articles or those which will crush easily.

5. Winning articles will be selected on the basis of originality, craftsmanship, design and usefulness.

6. No more than six articles should be submitted by any one department or agency.

7. Winning articles selected for shipment to Japan will be turned over to the National Recreation Association of Japan permanently for display and exhibit purposes throughout Japan. All other articles will be returned at entrant's expense *if requested*; otherwise articles will be kept by the National Recreation Association for display and exhibit purposes within the United States.

8. The National Recreation Association cannot be responsible for damage to, or loss of, any article sent. Articles will be acknowledged upon receipt. Every possible precaution will be taken to prevent loss or damage.

9. Each article must have a tag or label firmly attached which provides the following information: (*Please leave space on tag for description of article in Japanese.*)

Name of craftsman
Age
City and state.....
Name of agency in whose arts and crafts program this
article was made

10. Submit separately from the tag any request for return of the article. Be sure to give name and address of person to whom article is to be returned. *Please also indicate amount for which article should be insured.*

now that **WINTER** *is here*



Are Your Parties in Tune with the Season?

WHETHER or not you're in a section of the country that has white winters, you'll probably use the winter theme for at least one of your parties or dances.

The name you give to the event will depend largely upon the type of affair that you are planning. A formal dance might be called a Snow Ball; an ordinary dance, a February Frolic. Winter Carnival sounds appropriate even for an indoor party, and practically everyone would be delighted to receive an invitation to visit Jack Frost's Fairyland or Winter Wonderland!

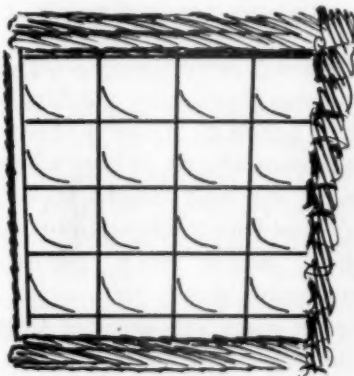
Regardless of the name, the decorations can be almost the same for all of these social gatherings. If nature hasn't been cooperative enough to frame all the windows with snow and frost, don't worry. You can do a fairly realistic job of it yourself.

First, get some white paper (type-writing paper will do) and use one sheet to make a pattern. Place one of the corners of the paper in a corner of one of the windowpanes. With a pencil, outline what looks like a mound of snow piled high in the corner and tapered down to a thin line as it nears the center. Cut out this pattern and you'll be able to use it for all of the windows.

Count the panes to see how many mounds of snow will be needed. Then pile several sheets of paper together,

place the pattern on top and save time by using a sharp razor blade to cut through the entire pile—or a good portion of it. Set someone else to take on the task of pasting the "snow" on the windows while you tend to other matters.

The main entrance might be fringed with a single strip of paper icicles and guarded by a bed sheet snowman, com-



plete with hat, scarf and broom. He could hold a sign that says "Welcome," or the sign might be hung over the door itself.

When you start working on the hall proper, try to remember to have large eye-catching decorations which will help create the atmosphere you want. Don't spend precious time on spotty little bits that may easily go unnoticed. Concentrate upon the ceiling and large wall spaces.

You'll find that most large halls have

ceilings much too high to give a cozy atmosphere. Perhaps your first problem will be that of putting in a false ceiling. This really isn't so hard, nor so time-consuming as you'd think. One of the simplest ways is to string something the width of the hall, just above the reach of the tallest participant.

For a winter party you may want to use strings of snowflakes. Almost anyone can cut them out; kindergarten children do! So don't let anyone beg off because "he's no artist."

Scientists say that no two snowflakes are alike, so you won't need any patterns; just collect some heavy art or construction paper, a few pairs of scissors and a group of willing workers.

While these people are busy folding, cutting and marvelling over their creations, you might get the twine or string and start on the framework.

First, lay the string flat upon the floor, the width of the hall. Then get someone—perhaps the people who have by this time finished putting the snow on the windows—to tie short strings of varying lengths to the one which you've already measured. As soon as any snowflakes are finished, staple them to the short strings. Make as many rows as you need. Many people can help you with this since there's hardly anything that they can do wrong! Make a group project of it; it might even warrant a preparty party or serve as a valuable



and interesting club project.

On the night of the party itself, remember that background music is always good to help create a mood and get people into the spirit of the thing. In this instance, numbers such as *Jingle Bells*, *Skaters' Waltz*, *Let It Snow*, *Let It Snow*, *Let It Snow* and *Walking in a Winter Wonderland* would be appropriate. If you can arrange to have small, light paper snowflakes fall during one or two of these numbers, it will be an added attraction. Electric fans, strategically placed, might help keep the snow in the air.

At a dance, or any party where you're lucky enough to have an orchestra, you might talk the musicians into donning stocking caps, ear muffs, scarves and so forth for their special numbers—particularly vocal solos.

At the parties, or during the intermission at the dances, you can stage several winter events. The fact that they're held indoors on a bone-dry dance floor simply makes a ski or a snowshoe race that much more hilarious. Relays which involve getting in and out of snow or ski boots, or even overshoes, can be amusing from the participants' and spectators' viewpoints.

One of the western Massachusetts college groups has a game so entertaining that people are arranged in circles so that they can all watch each other perform. The leader gives a lady's zippered handbag to one of the players, who must open the bag, take out and put on the pair of ski mitts he finds inside, take out and open a package of gum, put one piece of gum (minus paper) into his mouth, return the rest of the gum and the ski mitts to the bag, which he zips and passes on

to the next player. The team finishing first wins—probably an elaborately-wrapped package of chewing gum!

If your winter party takes the form of a dance, you can use that snowman from the front entrance—or any other snowman you might want to assemble. One of the ladies starts dancing with "him" while everyone else on the floor dances with the partner of her choice. But the lady is anxious to get rid of the snowman and get herself a real partner, so she tags any other lady, presents her with the snowman in exchange for her partner. This is just a novel way of running a ladies' tag dance and lends a little fun to the occasion.

For your lucky number, or elimination dance, you might try wrapping a small piece of paper with a number on it in a ball of cotton. Each couple on the floor receives a ball. At a pause in the music, the leader draws three or four numbers from a duplicate set at the microphone. The couples on the floor must open their cotton balls to find their number. If theirs is one of the numbers called, they must then leave the floor. The music and dancing are resumed. At the next and subsequent pause in the music, the procedure is repeated until only one couple is

left on the floor. This couple, of course, wins any prize you may care to award. During this number, if you wish, you can have people on the floor exchange numbers by throwing their cotton balls to someone else. The only problem here would be that one person might collect two or three balls while someone else might have none! However, if you know your group well enough, you'll know whether to try this variation.

Refreshments can fit into the scheme of things, too. Popcorn balls look like snowballs (so do marshmallows) and Eskimo pies, ice cream of any kind and popsicles are cold enough for winter. These might be served by "Eskimos" or warmly-dressed individuals from a spot decorated to represent an igloo, the North Pole or Iceland. If the weather is really cold, your group might be just as glad to have hot chocolate topped with marshmallow.

Before the close, or maybe at the very end, of your party or dance, you might want to teach "Take a Little Look at the Northern Lights" or "Patty Cake Polka" to the tune of *Jingle Bells*. At any rate, do everything you can to create the impression that winter has arrived (indoors, if not out) and that there's no time like snow time.

February Party Themes

A "famous" party honoring not only George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, but all the people in the sponsoring group who might have achieved fame, or the most famous cook, the town's most famous athlete, our famous band, a famous coach, sportsman, dancer, singer, skater, dressmaker.

We see many silhouettes of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, so why not silhouettes of other famous folks?

Set up a lamp so that it shines on an easel or a wall where you've placed a sheet of drawing paper. Have each guest, as he arrives, stand between the lamp's rays and the paper on which his shadow will fall. Anyone can outline the profile. The guest takes this to a table where there's India ink and brushes. He makes his own silhouette and then hangs it upon the wall somewhere, takes it home later.

One of the events of the evening

might be to see who can identify the greatest number of silhouettes.

A Woodchopper's Ball on February 12—with the song of the same name used as the theme—could feature an intermission novelty based upon chopping wood, even if the woodpile is only a pile of toothpicks.

A Rail Splitters Social for February 12 to which folks wear old clothes and do old-time American Folk dances.

A Hatchet Hop for February 22.

A modern skit, take off on henpecked husbands and forgetful fathers, could be entitled "Fathers of Our Country."

A Sweetheart theme might be used, too. Pictures of girl friends and boy friends can be displayed in a locked glass case on appropriate-sized heart cutouts.

Truth or Consequences is another good February game since people patterning their behavior after George Washington cannot tell lies.



Follow "Natural Interest"

To Build a Successful

PROGRAM FOR GIRLS

Helen M. Dauncey

IT IS NOT uncommon to have a recreation director say, "What can we do for girls in a recreation program? I don't know anything about them or what they prefer!"

This probably explains the fact that too often the program offered is a warmed-over version of a sports program which has pleased the boys. Most recreation directors agree that an adequate program for the girls is a necessary and vital essential of any good community program; but what to do and how to do it remain baffling questions.

First, let us make girls proud of the fact that they are girls, and give them an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the role they are to play as homemakers, wives, mothers, professional women and citizens in a democracy. Every phase of their program should make a contribution to a happier and fuller life for them and for those for whom they will be responsible.

It is no longer possible to pigeon-hole responsibility by drawing vertical lines and saying that that is the job of the school and that is the job of the home—or the church or the private or public agency. The lines go horizontally and, in every case, the girl is the most important consideration. We, in recreation, have a golden opportunity to accomplish much because we work with people who come of their own

free choice. We hold them only as we hold their interest.

A successful program for girls should start at an early age. The natural interest of the seven and eight-year-old in "playing house" is the perfect background for developing the homemaking skills. With good leadership, setting the table properly, being a good hostess, learning how to sew and to do simple decorative crafts, making a bed, washing and ironing dolls' clothes are delightful experiences instead of chores. With their natural flair for make-believe, storytelling and dramatics are musts in a program. Girls love to dress up and give shows.

Group singing and rhythmic activities belong here, too, and there should be plenty of opportunity for vigorous play through the use of low-organized games. There also is a need for more active recreation to build health and endurance. This is the time to teach skills which will be needed in their choice of games at a later age. Table games—dominoes, checkers, parchesi—puzzles and magic tricks all have an appeal. Since they like to sort, classify and arrange, it is not too early to start interest in hobbies. All little girls from eight to twelve love the word "club," and almost any activity with that label will catch their interest. Their natural curiosity about things makes it an ideal time to introduce nature activities—identification of flowers, birds, animals, trees, sea life—and to have camp experiences. Above all, they need fun and laughter—a feeling of belonging

and of being important. They need top-notch leadership, for they are usually fond of their leader and will imitate her.

At about the age of ten, there is not much companionship between boys and girls; yet here is the time when the leader can do much to make the coming teen years happy ones. Take a look ahead and see what activities are going to be needed for the boy-girl interest which is just around the corner. Remember that the adolescent years are filled with potentialities for tragedy and despair or for happiness and high adventure. Just as the teen years are a preparation for adulthood, so the pre-teen years are a preparation for that thirteen-to-nineteen-year span.

Health and personal attractiveness, self-confidence and the ability to do things will be very important. Keep right on with skills and creative activities but begin to discuss things. What makes a person attractive? What do you have to do to have good health? Social training and experience belong in this pre-teen program—for nothing gives one more poise than knowing the correct thing to do.

Youngsters need to learn to face reality, to accept situations as they really are and to act accordingly. This saves many heartbreaking experiences in the teen years. A chance to discuss their worries and problems with a wise and understanding adult is a valuable part of a program for them.

By all means, emphasize the activities—active, quiet and group games,

Helen Dauncey is the Katherine F. Barker Memorial Secretary in charge of work with women and girls for NRA.

roller skating, outdoor sports, swimming, bowling, ice skating, dancing, music, drama, crafts. A good foundation for social dancing should have been built up through folk dancing, play party games and rhythmic activities at the earlier age level.

It is most desirable that activities with boys be included all along the line—for they pave the way for good social relationships. Puppet-making, crafts, music and so forth are enjoyed together long before the youngsters are ready for dances.

The early adolescent thirteen and fourteen-year-old girls are in a period of rapid growth and development. They are trying to find themselves. Odd behavior, constantly-changing social groups, short-lived interests and the desire to plan on a higher level than they can execute are all characteristic of their age.

It is important that the leader strive to develop principles of democratic procedure, for undemocratic organizations are very common at this age. The basic program interests can be carried on, but the girls are now ready for more service activities. Community volunteer projects, work with younger children through an assistant leader's course, home nursing, first aid and child care are appealing. There is great interest in cooking and sewing, crafts, club groups, team sports and social affairs. Questions of etiquette are matters of life and death! They talk about the boys all the time—but their social affairs will need quite a lot of adult help in planning if they are to be successful.

The middle adolescents—fifteen and sixteen years of age—are ready for games requiring much higher skills and, although the girls are still interested in team games, they show a preference for individual sports such as badminton, tennis, bowling, archery, swimming, winter sports and, of course, social dancing.

Corecreation programs are very much needed, but their scope should go beyond social dancing, table tennis and coke bars. They should include parties, picnics, discussion groups, hobby clubs, music, crafts, radio groups, quiz programs and talks on subjects of interest. Girls are thinking more about their future, and talks on careers open to wo-

men are valuable. They are ready for more good citizenship projects which develop from an understanding of their own community needs.

The later adolescent years—sixteen to eighteen—should reap the harvest of the previous ten years of good preparation. Interests have been stimulated, skills given and standards and appreciations established. Girls of this age wish to appear grown up and adult, but a deeper desire is to be accepted by their own group and to find new status outside the family circle. They are ready to accept greater responsibility for the conduct of their own affairs, but need adult guidance. They have a real need for success, and being popular and well-liked are of major concern to them. They are interested in social, economic and political issues of the day—and good program material can be worked out around these interests. While they enjoy some all-girl activities, their main interest is in corecreation programs. Girls of this age make fine junior leaders for younger girls.

As usual, leadership is considered the most important part of the entire set-up. Strange as it may seem, it is much more difficult to lead girls' groups than boys'. The former seem to need more personal attention, more assistance in getting things started and more

encouragement to keep them going.

The leader should exemplify the qualities which she wishes her girls to develop. Good grooming, good health, charm, social adequacy, specific skills in some fields, and a general knowledge of many more, a more genuine interest in girls, a knowledge of psychology, patience, a sense of humor and a sense of proportion are some of the qualities such a leader should possess. No leader is worthy of the name if she believes her responsibility is merely to direct activities. What counts most is what is happening to every individual in her group. Activities and programs are merely a means to an end, and that end is richer living and extended horizons. While all leadership is important, that of working with girls is doubly so—for the things we teach can be so far-reaching. Mothers who have had a happy childhood and have learned the essential ways of creating a good life will want to do the same for their children. Family solidarity and happier homes are, in the last analysis, the job of the women of the world. This ability is not inherited; it is learned. All girls should have the opportunity to get this education from every possible source, and I believe that our recreation programs are certainly one place where this may easily happen.

BROTHERHOOD WEEK

February 18-25, 1951

Sponsored by National Conference of Christians and Jews

"We talk about building bridges of brotherhood around the world in answer to the communist pretensions, and that's a splendid vision. But brotherhood begins on a man-to-man basis at home and not on a mass-to-mass basis across the oceans. Without that footing, it is idle talk and an empty vision.

"We can't afford to blind ourselves to the disturbing and undermining racial and religious antagonisms in America. They will defeat our good intentions for world brotherhood until we cast them out and live as brothers in our states, communities and neighborhoods—not for a single week in any year, but day by day and year by year."—*Eric Johnston*, General Chairman, Brotherhood Week.

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RENO'S CLOWN ALLEY

H. T. Swan



RENO'S CLOWN ALLEY was originated by former big-time circus clown, Ed Beisel, who now teaches the tricks of clowning and make-up to others. The alley has a membership of eighteen local businessmen, with four additional apprentice clowns. Any local man interested in old-time clowning traditions is eligible to join, and there are no fees, dues or special assessments. However, each member must provide his own costume. Anonymity is maintained for all clowns by having correspondence pass through the recreation department office.

The group has set up strict policies regarding performances—no performance will be given unless there are at least four hundred people in the audience, and no performance will be given to promote private interests.

Clowning is serious business. Just the applying and removing of make-up takes close to an hour. Then, too, costumes must be clean and neat for each

performance—which, by the way, draws the wives into the act. Learning the various gimmicks which make people laugh also takes many hours. A great deal of planning and preparation goes into each performance and the men work long and hard designing and building props for new routines. Because of the cost of materials involved, Clown Alley accepts donations but does not solicit funds nor request payment for performing.

It is sponsored by the Reno Recreation Commission, which provides a room in the community center for weekly rehearsals and storage space for props.

Activities

The biggest show in which the clowns participate is the annual Community and Playground Circus. Last year, more than two hundred fifty children took part in the two-hour show, and a capacity crowd of three thousand was on hand for the fun. Clowns performed eight times during the event, with such stunts as the clown barbershop, the Superman skit and a version of the busy bee.

Other activities in which the group participated during the past year in-

cluded the opening of the Community Chest drive, Admission Day Parade, Service Club Christmas Party, March of Dimes Show, Ducks Unlimited Show and Service Club Easter Egg Hunt. In addition, individual members of the alley have performed at many birthday parties, neighborhood get-togethers and other community functions.

Simpson Clown Club

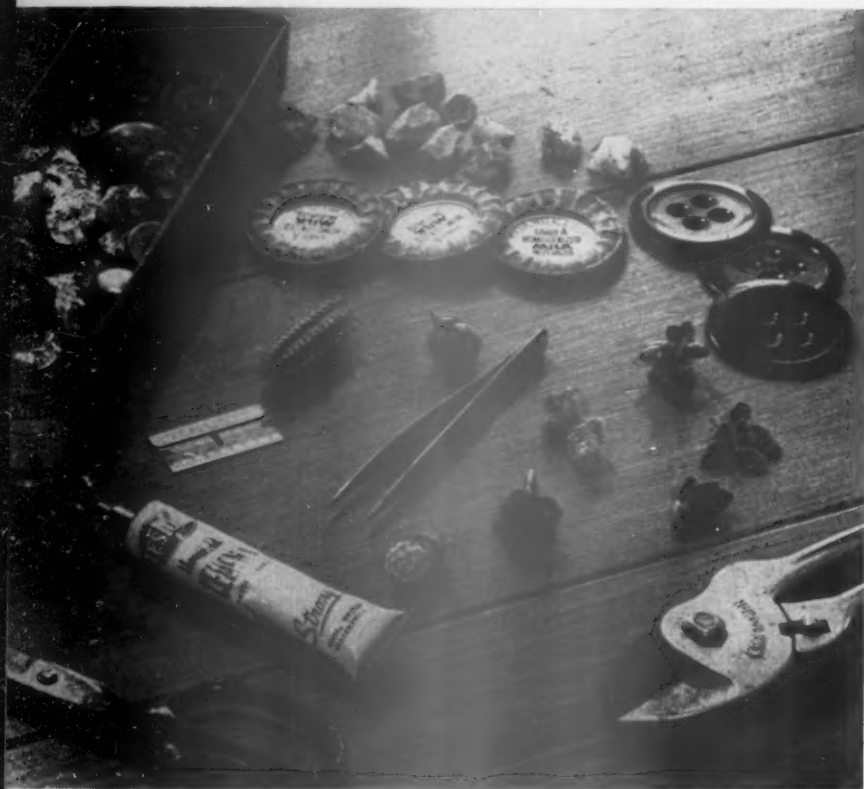
Back in 1948, at the annual Shelton, Washington, forest celebration, an employee of the Simpson Logging Company conceived the idea of a mock tree-planting machine, run by grotesque characters, to amuse the spectators. It was the hit of the show and out of this beginning came the Simpson Clown Club.

More than fifty employees were admitted to the organization and taught the secrets of creating an effective clown get-up.

Since their organization, the Simpson Clowns have traveled several thousand miles entertaining at civic celebrations, parades and other important events.

The author, Henry T. Swan, is the supervisor of recreation in Reno, Nevada.

Materials are easy to find about the house, collect, or buy; they include tiny plants and stones, peat moss, sand, shears, scissors, tweezers, razor blade, transparent cement.



I After visualizing your "garden" (including base), put small amount of cement upon button and set tallest cactus (or two) firmly in place, a little off center. Pause to let cement harden.

How to Garden on a Button

Maurice B. Kyne



MANY HOBBYISTS enjoy making miniatures, and one of the most delightful ways of indulging this desire is to make miniature gardens—yes, real, living gardens—on buttons! To prove how simple it is, these pictures show how a tiny cactus garden can be made, complete with sand and peat moss, in a very short time. By adding a few drops of water about once a week, you can persuade it to live contentedly for months. Other than a button, a small coaster, a milk bottle cap or any tiny dish with holes in it for drainage could be used. Small, slow-growing kinds of cacti and succulents comprise the plant materials, and little sea shells, pebbles and bits of broken rock and bright-colored glass can be added to give variety in texture and color.

Reprinted through courtesy of *The American Home*.

2 Add a few carefully chosen pieces of rock around dominant cactus feature, but leave a little space between them. Paper-napkin work surface prevents mess, soaks up spilled cement.



3 Fill in gaps around cacti and stones with two or three smaller plants (succulents) of suitable size, shape and color, using only enough cement to anchor them. Don't overcrowd.



Kind of gardening involves no work clothes, calluses, sore feet; it can be enjoyed anywhere, at any time, by anybody.

4 Finally, sprinkle with clean sand to cover button and cement, and tuck in bits of peat moss around base, this to absorb and hold the moisture needed by the plants as they grow.



This Business of Counting Attendance

Lloyd A. Rochford

BECAUSE it seems important that those who have responsibility should know the reasons for the things which they are expected to do, the Long Beach, California, Recreation Department frequently refreshes the thinking of its staff on the subject of attendance-recording and reporting. The method used by this department has evolved over a period of twenty years, becoming more simplified through elimination of detail of doubtful value while, we believe, increasing the value of the record by making the basic factors more reliable.

Our department has endeavored to keep informed as to the thinking of the National Recreation Association's research workers and committees and has adopted their findings and suggestions as far as possible. A big step along this line was our adoption of the recommended formula which utilized the peak count in the morning, afternoon and evening periods. We believe that we have a good method and are confident that, in the language of an NRA bulletin on the subject, "the formula . . . represents the most authoritative method of recording attendance that yet has been devised for general application."

In one particular we have found it necessary to vary our practice somewhat from the NRA committee's recommendation. The committee states that the formula applies only to summer playgrounds. Our dependence upon the

The importance attached to accurate reporting of attendance in Long Beach is indicated by the fact that in addition to verbal and mimeographed instructions to the recreation staff, a bulletin was prepared and distributed to members of the recreation commission explaining the use of the attendance-taking formula.

formula is, of necessity, much broader than this. In Long Beach, we have an all-year program with nearly as much activity in the winter months as in the summer. We use the formula the entire year because its value is as great in one month as in another.

One fact discovered in the early years of recreation attendance-taking was that, deliberately or not, a source of inaccurate reporting (shall we say padding?) of attendance totals was occurring in connection with the counting of spectators. It was suspected that in some cases passers-by were promptly recorded as spectators if they so much as turned their heads in the direction of the playground. Sometimes the total of spectators reported grew to such enormous figures as to become more than open to question.

Accusations against the veracity of playground directors was evidently not the proper approach. It seemed plain that some directors were greatly confused as to just what constituted a spectator. The blame was placed exactly where we thought it belonged—upon the attendance-taking system then in use. This is what we set out to correct. How well we have succeeded the reader may judge. Perhaps our sys-

tem still needs fixing, but of one thing we are very sure—it is far better than any previous system used in Long Beach. Perhaps an explanation of this system will prove of value to those whose problems are similar to our own.

The Weekly Attendance Blank

In the first place, the weekly attendance blank is used primarily to report area or recreation center attendance rather than specific activity attendance; the latter consideration is supplemental. This, we believe, is an essential in order to use the formula.

Section A-B of the blank, reproduced on the next page, is for general attendance. Every person, child or adult coming to the playground or center is counted under general attendance unless he is counted under Section C or Section D. The formula is used in reporting general attendance; peak attendance for the morning is multiplied by 2, for afternoon by 2.5, and for night by 1.5. The director reporting is instructed not to take the peak count less than an hour before an event is held at the area and listed under Section C, or less than an hour following the close of such an event. Columns are totaled and the attendance for the week is entered in the weekly summary box opposite A-B and under the columns headed "participants."

Section B is for organized groups and major activities and is for participants only. It is in this section that much of the information concerning program is recorded. Note that totals for this section are *not* entered in the weekly summary box for the reason

Lloyd A. Rochford is in charge of research and publications in Long Beach Recreation Department, Calif.

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out to us some place where we are making a serious statistical blunder. In either case, we shall be grateful.

[illegible]



GRANDPARENTS

SEEK

FUN

TOO . . .

Anne Livingston

ARE YOU interested in starting a Golden-Age Club? Are you afraid of that first meeting—the “how-to-do-it” part? If so, here are some helpful hints as to how to go about your first club meeting, as well as information about the recent starting activities of two clubs. Both of these were fun; each was very different; and both actually worked!

Helpful Hints:

1. Have some organization sponsor your club—to be responsible for publicity, transportation, facilities, program, decorating, refreshments and so forth. The sponsoring agency should, after the first few meetings, indirectly get the group itself to plan and direct its own programs while the agency stays in the background, “keeping the machinery oiled and moving.”
2. Be careful of overtiring and overfeeding the guests since you are not sure of the condition of their health.
3. Direct activities which you are sure all can do and will enjoy, particularly at this first meeting. Some may be very active, while some may not have played in years.
4. Try to lead their thinking toward some active as well as passive game fun for future meetings.
5. Decorate halls simply but beautifully, with chairs arranged in four (or

more) “cozy nooks” about the room and a space in center for activities. Use a lace cloth upon the refreshment table with silver coffee service at one end, tea service at the other, a floral centerpiece, plain cookies and mints.

Club Number One

This club, co-sponsored by the Woman's Club and the Department of Public Recreation, was furnished by the recreation department, which helped with some of the planning; the Woman's Club had charge of everything else.

There were only four days to prepare for the first meeting because they wanted the NRA training specialist to direct the activities. Therefore, good use was made of the phone, radio and newspapers to tell members of the community: “If you are between the ages of eighty-five to one hundred twenty-five, come and have fun at the recreation center on Friday morning from ten to twelve. And if you are not quite old enough to join this new club, please come and help.”

Friday was a disheartening, rainy day so we felt that there would be very few, if any, oldsters who would come out in such weather. Imagine our surprise when more than fifty arrived—many in their eighties and two in their nineties.

Following is the party plan used. Several last-minute changes were made to avoid tiring the group.

Preparty Games—As the guests ar-

rived, a group of several members of the Woman's Club (not a reception committee) escorted them to a table where two other volunteers registered their names and addresses. Then they were given a large, six-by-ten red heart of cardboard and a pencil and told to collect the names of as many people as possible to write upon the heart. We helped in this, even writing for some who asked us to do so.

Getting them into four groups was the next step, and this was done by using the old favorite game of asking for a show of hands of all those who were born in the four seasons—January, February, March; April, May, June; July, August, September; October, November, December. Then, not knowing if this would work or if they would think it silly, group one was told that they were “ducks” and would say quack, quack; group two were “cats” and would meow; group three were “turkeys” and would gobble, gobble; group four were “pigs” and would oink, oink.

Players now had to walk around the room, making their own particular animal sounds and finding all others who were making the same kind of noise. Everyone had a wonderful time being ducks, pigs, turkeys and cats and, when the game was over, all were given their particular “cozy nook” corner where the chairs had already been arranged.

Now all the guests were seated and each group was given a pencil and a sheet of paper and asked to select its own chairman. This chairman then formally introduced members of the group to each other and was then asked to write down the names of songs guessed by his group during the following game.

Musical Romance

As the pianist tells the story, playing the suggested songs, guests try to name the selections being played. The group naming the most songs wins.

This is a story that happened *Long, Long Ago* in *The Good Old Summer Time*. The notes of the stately *Wedding March* could be heard sounding through the *Trees* on the wedding day of the lovely *Juanita* and her handsome lover, *Robin Adair*.

Mrs. Anne Livingston is a leadership training specialist on the staff of the National Recreation Association.

For the wedding trip, they went *Sailing* to the distant lands and not even when they were *Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep* was their happiness crowded for a single instant.

After seeing the sights of the old country, they came *Merrily, Merrily* back to *America, the Beautiful*. Back in *Dixie* they were met by *Old Black Joe*, who took them over the rolling hills to see the *Old Folks At Home*.

Their first quarrel came because Robin was always late for his meals. Juanita would stand waiting by the *Old Oaken Bucket*, sighing *Oh Dear, What Can the Matter Be?*

One night as he came an hour late for his meals, she met him *In the Evening by the Moonlight* and, uttering the *Battle Cry of Freedom*, packed up and went to her *Old Kentucky Home*.

Robin thought of his sins *All Through the Night* and, in the morning, wired her, *I Love You Truly*. She wired back, *Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag* for I'm coming back to *Home Sweet Home*.

All *Smiles*, Robin met her *In the Gloaming*, and from then on life for them was one *Perfect Day*. Even after time had sprinkled their hair with *Silver Threads Among the Gold*, life for them was a continuation of *Love's Old Sweet Song*.

At the finish of the story, guests were asked to sing *Love's Old Sweet Song*.

Next each group was asked to select its "smartest man." The men were told to try and guess the word being dramatized by their group. Each group was given the same words—such as gossiping, cooking, preaching, musician—and it was fun to see how disgusted the other players would become if their "smart man" was slow in guessing.

Since the groups had been seated long enough, they were asked to get acquainted with the guests in the other groups. All were instructed to stand and form a circle in the cleared space of the room.

One person was asked to step inside the circle and start walking around. At a signal (the leader clapped his hands once), he would stop and introduce himself to the person nearest to him, ask his name, take him by the hand and

start walking around the inside of the circle talking together. Here we suggested that they talk aloud so that we could hear the gossip.

When a second signal was given (the leader clapped twice), they were to say "good-bye" and walk around in single file. Again, at a signal, they would greet the players nearest to them, repeating the previous action until everyone had a partner.

Now we were ready for the first musical mixer and guests were again asked to get acquainted with others in the group and then join inside hands with their partners. All were asked to walk four steps forward around the circle with their partners (leader says aloud, "walk-2-3-4"); drop hands and face partners; walk four steps backward away from partners ("back-2-3-4"). All point with right hands towards partners; then move hands to right to point to another person standing beside partner who now becomes the new partner. All take four steps toward their new partners ("point-2-3-4"), and shake hands saying "How-do-you-do" (same rhythm as "walk-2-3-4"). The action is repeated to enable everyone to have several new partners.

While participants took time out for refreshments, the leader told them of other golden-age clubs around the country, how they operate and how much fun they offer. He then asked for a show of hands to see how many there would like to meet weekly with this club. All hands went up and the president of the Woman's Club told them about future plans and suggested that they come prepared with a name for the club on the following week.

Club Number Two

With little time to advertise and evidently very little publicity, only two men came to our beautifully-decorated hall. Both men, who were over eighty, discovered that they lived not too far from each other and that each was retired and lonely for companionship.

Since there's not too much that can be done in the way of activities with two people, the "never fail" method was used—trick games with cards and coins as well as pencil and paper "you-guess-the-answer" games.

We had wonderful fun and one of

our guests, who particularly enjoyed solving difficult puzzles and quizzes, showed us a few favorite tricks. One that he gave us was the following: If you divide I into love it will give me you.

1) LOVE (YOU the answer: 3) 1728 (576

LY	15
—	—
VL	22
VV	21
—	—
LE	18
LE	18
—	—

In asking him how he started this problem, he said that in subtracting L from V, the answer is L. Therefore, L plus L will equal V. Then V has to be larger than L because I cannot be divided into L. Start by trying figures—for example, if L plus L equals V. We decided that if L is 1, then V must be 2.

Later, we had tea and cookies and continued playing coin, card and number trick-games. Our two guests promised that they would try to find more people for the next session, and the sponsoring agency definitely promised many more for the following week. We then told the gentleman with the mental game hobby that he would be in charge of that part of the program and asked him to teach his assistant (the other guest) so that if there was a large crowd the following week both of them could be "Mr. Wizards" and entertain. They immediately made plans for meeting for rehearsals.

One final note—don't get discouraged if you don't have immediate response to the organization of a club. It would have been easy for us to say "We haven't enough people to do anything, so we will postpone our first meeting until next week." This would have meant that we probably would not have had these two gentlemen back, and we certainly would not have found what each had to contribute.

Every person has something to share and, if we are interested enough, it is easy to find out what that contribution might be. Just find one person in the group who has leadership ability and it will not be too long before there will be grand marches, square dancing, checkers, chess, dominoes and so on.

Activities for Youngsters Around the World

A CHURCH PROGRAM FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN



TO PLAN a diversified summer recreation program for ten, fifty or even a hundred children is a challenging task for anyone. But to plan, organize and integrate such a program for 150,000 youngsters seems almost incredible. Especially when those children are scattered in areas throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Hawaii, Japan, Tonga, Samoa, Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Palestine, Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Scandinavia and some parts of Germany. Yet such was the accomplishment of the leaders of the Primary Association of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Members of the primary are children four to eleven years of age inclusive. They are taught by volunteer adult leaders who conduct primaries in groups ranging from five or six in a home unit to more than two hundred in larger, well-organized wards.

The objective of the association is

Miss Ruth H. Chadwick is a member of the National League of American Pen Women, Salt Lake City, Utah.

to furnish week-day religious and recreational education to children. The year-round program stresses spiritual and moral teachings and provides opportunity for growth and development through a variety of individual and group activities. Keeping in mind the "whole child" and his need for leisure-time direction, particularly during school vacation months, emphasis is placed upon the summer recreation projects.

The 1950 summer program was based upon a broad international theme, with the premise in mind that knowledge, understanding and appreciation help to build friendship and good-neighbor attitudes. A study of the customs, clothing, food, arts, crafts and folklore of four representative peoples of the Christian world formed the background of the course. Divided into age groups, the children learned about the ways of the American Indians, the South Pacific Islanders, the Scandinavians and the inhabitants of the British Isles. They became acquainted with the folk tales of these peoples, played their games, sang their songs and prepared and ate their native foods.

Folk dancing also had a prominent part in the planned activities, for it is as old as the folkways from which it sprang, and no land has lacked in native dances. The rhythmic swaying and bending of the body and the lively vigorous footwork involved have a therapeutic value in the development of healthy boys and girls. Aside from supplying a form of exercise, it feeds the spirit, and whoever takes part in a folk dance carries away some feeling of exuberance and of friendship.

Primary boys and girls went still farther in trying to understand their neighbors of other lands. Most children love to make things; so, under the supervision of their leaders, they learned the skills of many peoples and fashioned innumerable crafts articles, both ornamental and practical.

The culminating feature of this summer of fun and achievement was the "Summer Festival" presented by each local group of children, near the eleventh of August, the birthday of their organization. Each festival was a glorious outgrowth of the season's activities, where the children, dressed in the native costumes they had fashioned,

danced to the rhythmic beat of tomtoms or demonstrated the Maori Poi Dance, Highland Schottishe, English Maypole Dance, Swedish Clap Dance, Danish Polka and others.

Another interesting part of each festival was the exhibit of handcrafts made by the children. The exhibits included such colorful items as the following: Indian drums, tepees, rugs, pottery and war bonnets; native out-rigger canoes, palm trees, leis, grass mats; English bread boards, knitting, crocheting; Scandinavian embroidery, belt purses, curtain trims, boats and door knockers.

These articles were viewed by the parents, who joined in the "good time together" and watched and listened to their children sing, dance and dramatize what they had learned and enjoyed in primary classes.

And, now—How was it done?

Planning of the program in all its details was done by one central board of thirty-six women, trained and experienced in child leadership. They met in Salt Lake City, Utah, headquarters of the Primary Association, to plan, pre-



pare and publish the outlines of instruction for the summer work.

During the first week in April, a two-day convention was held in Salt Lake City for the leaders of approximately two hundred areas (or stakes) where primaries are held. Each of the larger areas is divided into five to twelve smaller divisions, each with its own organized group of children. During the two-day convention, area leaders met in workshop sessions and attended large scale demonstrations conducted by the "general board" of planners and instructors. Details of the summer program were thoroughly discussed, and the actual "know-how" of carrying them out was taught.

Returning to their homes, area lead-

ers in turn conducted similar meetings for group leaders under their supervision, teaching and demonstrating the methods and goals to be achieved.

Area and group leaders of the Primary Association number more than 26,000—a veritable army of understanding and qualified women whose one aim is to encourage and influence for good the girls and boys they are privileged to teach. Inasmuch as all services are free, teaching primary is truly a "labor of love." Because of their genuine interest in the needs of children, the leaders put unbelievable effort and enthusiasm into the preparation and consummation of their plans.

The outstanding success of the 1950 summer recreation program of the Primary Association is evidence of the untiring devotion to the cause of healthful and purposeful recreation for children.

The joyous, eager response of the thousands of children who shared busy and happy summer days is another monument of achievement—a glorious adventure of children learning to be friends with all the world.

DISTRICT RECREATION CONFERENCES—1951

Conducted under the auspices of the National Recreation Association

District Representative	Date	Hotel	Location
<i>February</i>			
Lynn S. Rodney	13 - 16	U. S. Grant	San Diego, California
<i>March</i>			
John W. Faust	15 - 17	The Inn	Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania
Marion Preece	15 - 17	Roanoke Hotel	Roanoke, Virginia
Ralph Van Fleet	15 - 17	Seminole Hotel	Jacksonville, Florida
Arthur Todd - Harold Lathrop	28 - 31	Hotel President	Kansas City, Missouri
Willard H. Shumard	29 - 31	Moscow Recreation Center	Moscow, Idaho
<i>April</i>			
Harold Van Arsdale	3 - 5	Herring Hotel	Amarillo, Texas
John J. Collier - Robert L. Horney	11 - 14	Secor Hotel	Toledo, Ohio
William M. Hay	22 - 25	Camp Helen	Panama City, Florida
George A. Nesbitt	23 - 25	Queensbury Hotel	Glens Falls, New York
<i>May</i>			
Richard S. Westgate	16 - 19	Poland Spring House	Poland Spring, Maine

What does a HOBBY get you...?

H. D. Edgren

LET US FIRST look at some of the needs in the lives of individual American citizens which must be met somehow if these individuals are to live happy and full lives. Hobbies can help meet some of these needs. Some leaders in the recreation field have identified recreation as a fifth freedom—along with freedom of speech, worship, freedom from want and fear—the freedom and opportunity to choose one's own enjoyment, to add life to one's years. A hobbyist chooses such freedom. Our elders in the past have told us that free time can be an asset or a liability, depending upon one's capacity to appreciate it and use it. The person who rides a hobby, making good and enjoyable use of his leisure, will not worry about too much free time, whether it be forced or chosen and, upon his retirement, he will find it to have been a blessing rather than a curse.

It is estimated that only about fifteen per cent of youth and young adults in America have their abilities developed and needs met while in school or on their jobs. The real worth and abilities of the individual—the things he can do best—are often not realized. Neither the school nor the job offers those basic satisfactions necessary for happier,

more joyful living.

Efforts in the hobby field are a step toward more healthful living, if we accept the concept that health is "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Slavson, in his book, *Recreation and the Total Personality*, identifies the real contribution of hobbies and of recreation as a means of meeting the needs of the individual in this contemporary period of frustration, and the need for vigorous release of emotional tension.

What then are some of these needs which must be met in the lives of all of us if we are to live more fully? First, there is the above-mentioned need for some means of emotional release—the active sort of release which William James suggested when he referred to the value of the woodpile for this purpose. We see men and women who are tense under the strain of noise and speed; we see them bored and cramped by tedious routine; we see them fretful with nerves worn raw by petty strife and the worry of wrongs, real or imagined. We have seen such persons come out, after spending an hour or two with their hobbies, made over and with new light in their eyes, a look of freshness, ready again to tackle their jobs.

A second need is the need of friendship. One of the very important phases

in our American way of life is the making and keeping of friends. The importance of this is self-evident to all of us. Hobbies can lead to socialization or friendship through the joining of a group of people with like interests, through sharing and trading in correspondence. There is no need for a hobby to be used as a means of withdrawal from people, although it can be enjoyed alone as well.

This leads us to the important need of being accepted by, and belonging to, some group. Our psychiatrists tell us that "Individuals simply must have, if they are to have any sense of worth at all, a feeling that they belong and are making some valuable contribution to a group." We have seen, in our own experience, many illustrations of the timid girl, the over-aggressive boy, the individual who is unwanted because of lack of skills or some personality difficulty.

Closely related to the above is the need of all of us to be engaged in some activity that is all-absorbing—one in which we can completely lose ourselves—a cause to champion or activities or events in which we can enter with complete forgetfulness of self. Today, recourse to alcohol and other narcotics appears to be the only way open to many, suggesting some inadequacy of experience in these lives. Two other needs are those for recognition and

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new experience. Because the rank and file of young people are non-adventurous, afraid to try something with which they're not familiar, the opportunity for new experience is not shared by many. Recognition is a need which is most likely to be filled when one of the other basic needs is met—that of belonging to groups. Through sharing a new experience, working and playing together, come the identification and recognition from others.

How do hobbies meet some of these basic needs? I would not be so naive as to suggest "Ride a hobby, live longer and enjoy complete living." There are other things which are important; but I do believe that people with hobbies have a greater chance of achieving and satisfying some of these needs. What does a hobby get you? It can be more than a release from work; it can be the transforming power that can help make life full and abundant. Secondly, the opportunities for creative self-expression are nowhere found to the extent that they are found in a hobby. It is yours; good or bad you did it and, because you did it your way, it is likely to

be good. You have not been dependent upon anyone else to "blow a whistle to start you off"; it has been yours to do in your own way.

Next, in terms of friendship and a sense of belonging, your hobby experience can be the means of making new acquaintances and lasting friendships. People are drawn to the place where they can get acquainted by sharing experiences. A real hobbyist wants to share his interest with others. Through this sharing, real friendships are made, irrespective of religion, race or nationality; it is the interest in the activity that brings individuals together.

Your own sense of worth, your belief in yourself, the self-confidence that has come with working at something and completing it—this is one of the things a hobby gets you. Many individuals today are afraid of solitude, unhappy unless they are in a group. A hobby can be the means of developing inner resources which can make life full even when alone. To you, who may now have hobbies, we say develop others. The many of you who must spend a great deal of time in other work, in

this business of making a living, will find your real enjoyment in living through your hobbies. Think twice, too, before you stop with thinking of your present interest only as a hobby, for in it or something like it you may find your life's work. The happiest people today are those whose hobby interests have become their permanent jobs. Regardless of whether you move from a hobby to a vocation, or continue with it only as your leisure-time interest, remember that you have not only the opportunity of enjoying it, but the obligation to stimulate others to join you in this thrilling experience. You can make your hobby a social influence by inviting others to join you in your experimentation and exploration of this interest. Then you can say with the poet:

"He drew a circle that left me out;
Heretic rebel and a thing to flout;
My hobby and I had the will to win,
We drew a circle that took him in."

A Hobby Can Be a Family Affair



Lon Clark, better known as "Nick Carter, Master Detective," over the Mutual Broadcasting System, teaches his young sons how to make many things. They whittle boats, paint Indian drums. Here he is demonstrating how to make moccasins—the practical kind.

THE

Fantastic

MAGICIAN

A SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD boy was standing in Newspaper Row, Washington Street, Boston, awe-inspired by a demonstration given by the famed magician, Houdini, one day in 1922. A college student visiting his father's art studio in Boston, the boy was part of a large crowd. To Sidney V. Wright, the study of magic and legerdemain was a hobby. But inspired by Houdini's feat that day back in 1922, he then and there decided to study carefully and learn the difficult ramifications of prestidigitations. And he did, for he became "The Fantastic Magician" and appeared for three years on the B. F. Keith theatre circuit.

He reports: "My first interest in magic began at the age of twelve, when I was watching a street faker selling small tricks. He told me that if I would get him a pail of water, he would give me a ball trick. I got the pail of water all right and ran home with the ball trick to show my powers of magic; but the ball would not disappear. He had not shown me how to operate the trick. However, after studying the problem, I discovered that the ball did not vanish by supernatural powers, but by an ingenious method. This made me want to

learn a great deal more about the mechanics of magic.

"It was hard to get information at that time, but I did get a book and become acquainted with a magician who taught me many clever sleights. Today there are many books on magic in our public libraries and also magic dealers.

"I gave my first full evening's show at the age of sixteen. At eighteen, I saw Houdini get out of a strait jacket and that convinced me that I should learn all that there is to know about magic and magicians. I am still learning. It was during my college days that I was asked to perform for a fee; and as students asked to be taught various tricks, I was able to pay for my education."

A theatrical critic in describing Mr. Wright said: "His magic is pleasing and unusually fascinating in its swiftness, producing startling effects, such as only a man of lightning speed and versatility is capable." After retiring from the theatrical field in 1930, "The Fantastic Magician" made use of his experience as a showman in organizing and directing dramatics, recreation and hobby programs throughout Massachusetts.

He states: "I discovered that magic is a hobby which covers many phases of

recreation. To be a magician, one must be an actor; therefore, we enter dramatics. In order to create and build new tricks, we march into arts and crafts. Then there is the social aspect, the pleasure of private practice to develop skill, finger exercise for sleight of hand. In fact, I studied piano to strengthen my fingers. Music, too, is a part of the picture.

"Magic is used in my work as Hyannis director of recreation as a public relations device and in gaining interest when speaking to groups. Occasionally I perform for clubs professionally."

During the war, he organized arts and crafts in army and navy camps and brought shows and produced them for the benefit of servicemen. He also conducted athletics such as baseball, basketball and various other tournaments in the camps. At the request of the United States government, he organized craft programs on the ill-fated airplane carrier, *The Wasp*.

Sidney Wright came to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in November 1944, when he was appointed supervisor of the Hyannis Community Center. He attended Practical Arts School in Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, the Detroit School of Lettering and Springfield College. In



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addition, he has taken courses in philosophy and the administration of recreation. He has lectured at the University of Massachusetts, Hyannis State Teachers College, and before women's clubs, Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, Masons and Knights of Columbus on different types of hobbies.

On Cape Cod he is known as the "Creator of Hobbies," because he has

organized so many types of leisure-time activities. Among these are metal crafts, jewelry, leathercrafts, ceramics, oil painting, photography, coin collecting, magic clubs, stamp collecting, nature lore, wood inlaying, seashell collecting, marionettes, puppets, block printing on cloth and paper and decorating all types of household furnishings. He has been active in organizing

tournaments in basketball, baseball, volleyball, swimming, boxing and table tennis.

In spite of the fact that he is perhaps one of the busiest men on Cape Cod, he does occasionally manage to find time to display his skill and hobby performing feats of magic before clubs, lodges, churches, private parties and other groups of the community.

Sir Noel Curtis-Bennett

Sir Noel Curtis-Bennett, noted sports supporter and founder of the National Playing Fields Association of Great Britain, collapsed while speaking at a sports meeting at a London hotel, December 2, and died a few minutes later. He was sixty-eight years of age.

Sir Noel, who made his career in civil service, was a former assistant secretary to the Treasury. He was interested in all forms of sports and was a member of the International Olympic Committee as well as of many other sports organizations.

On a visit to the United States in 1948, he addressed the headquarters staff of the National Recreation Association, stating:

"Playing fields are the training ground for those qualities of mind and spirit which, in combination, are the bases of our common heritage and our common ideals and strivings. I refer, of course, to the qualities of individual effort and initiative combined with team effort and the team spirit.

"You will, I know, agree with me that . . . we need to cultivate these qualities more than ever before if the civilization of free men is to survive. . . . For the maintenance of liberty and of social stability demands that our young people shall be given the facilities for healthy games; the facilities for cultivating their individual capacities while at the same time acquiring the art of working together for a common end.

"That the capacity for world leadership of our two great peoples owes much to this capacity to play games—and to play the game—is readily admitted by every thinking person . . .

In my judgment there can be no doubt that the complete failure alike of communism and authoritarianism to make headway in Great Britain is to be found in the fact that our people, whatever their status or occupations, mingle freely in the fellowship of sport. The playing of games unquestionably makes for social and political stability of a very high order."

Sir Noel was chairman of the National Playing Fields Association, vice president of the National Association of Boys Clubs, vice chairman of the British Olympic Council and chairman of the National Sporting Club Executive Committee.

William M. Mullen

The sudden passing of William M. Mullen, sixty-two, director of recreation for the Boston, Massachusetts, Park Department, on December 7, marked the close of a distinguished career.

Joseph Lee, Boston Associate Park Commissioner, writes: "To me he was one of the most impressive persons I ever met. He was one of those rare public officials who could not resist a new idea and never failed to make it blossom beneficially."

Director of recreation since 1930, William Mullen created Boston's outdoor Gay Nineties shows, children's amateur circuses, soap box derbies, the Mayor's Field Day fund-raising spectacles, Huck Finn fishing contests, children's May Day festivals on the Common, amateur boxing contests for play-

ground participants, Halloween parties throughout the city and public barn dancing.

Last year, more than eleven thousand participants played more than ten thousand official games on over six hundred teams to a total of three million on-lookers during the basketball, football and twilight baseball and softball seasons in an organized league system of which Mr. Mullen was the architect. In fact, one of the favorite sayings attributed to him was: "Give me a football and fifty square yards and I'll save five boys from reform school."

In addition, he was a life member of the Basketball Officials' Association and former president of its eastern board. He also had been president of the New England College Baseball Officials' Association and served as referee of the Boston Traveler-Chevrolet Soap Box Derby since its inception in 1935.

MARCH OF DIMES



JANUARY 15-31

"That home is dead, whether it knows it or not, which neglects to set aside leisure hours for family playtime."—John W. Faust.

Let's Read **ALOUD**

Elisabeth Hamilton Friermood

FATHER RAN HIS fingers through his hair as he continued to read to the attentive little group about him.

"It's quite a long time since you did any poetry," Mole remarked. "You might have a try at it this evening, instead of—well, brooding over things so much. I've an idea that you'll feel a lot better when you've got something jotted down—if it's only just the rhymes."

"The Rat pushed the paper away from him wearily, but the discreet Mole took the occasion to leave the room, and when he peeped in again some time later, the Rat was absorbed and deaf to the world, alternately scribbling and sucking the top of his pencil. It is true that he sucked a good deal more than he scribbled, but it was joy to the Mole to know that the cure had at least begun."

There was a moment of silence as father used an old postcard to mark the place and then closed the book.

"Please, couldn't we have one more chapter?"

"Not tonight. The end of a chapter is a good place to stop."

"Could we just look at the pictures again before we go to bed?" asked the eight-year-old.

Father turned to the Arthur Rackham illustrations appreciatively. This was his first reading of Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*, and he found his own enthusiasm for it equal to that of his children.

A child's plea, "Read to me," should

be heeded—and the adults who do so will gain immeasurably for many have missed certain gems in their own childhood. What an experience it is to discover them with your children!

Children know nothing of the "best seller" list, and any book they have not heard before is a new book; they take it to their hearts and love it with not so much as a glance at the date of publication. The breathless excitement of *Treasure Island*, the tang of humor in *Just So Stories* and the simple charm of *Heidi* are as fresh and pleasing today as when they were written.

There should be a certain amount of dramatic emphasis used by the reader so that the characters come alive and the scenes are perceived vividly by the listeners' inner eyes. A boy, after hearing his father read descriptive passages of the Mississippi River in Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, said to his mother, "Gee, Mom, I do like it when Dad lets himself go on reading. Sure is neat." What the boy didn't know was that his father was seeing the beauties of the great river for the first time. These he had missed when he read the book as a boy; and now his enthusiasm crept into his voice and the picture was made whole for his son.

Whenever the material permits, children should take their turn as readers in the family reading circle, for it helps to develop a pleasant speaking voice, diction and tone. Reading with "fun in your voice," as one child put it, and pronouncing words clearly should improve conversational inflections. Close your eyes at any party and listen; the need for improvement in speaking

voices is altogether too apparent.

To say that the life of a leader in recreation is a busy one is an understatement; but sandwiched in-between professional commitments there should be some time, budgeted if need be, for a period in which to read aloud with one's own family. The living together in the scenes of a well-loved book will create a common bond of interest which will remain as long as there is a son or daughter left to remember.

The current question as to what television is doing to the reading habits of young people is as interesting to recreation workers as to those in the field of children's literature—for what affects the young affects us all. In the family with the well-established habit of reading aloud, a television set may provide suggestions and stimuli for a more varied and interesting reading program than any that the family has yet experienced. However, a parent must be alert to suggestion. Western movies on television might well lead to the reading of Will James' *Smoky*, and the recent presentation of *Little Women* to many pleasant hours with the ageless March family.

Television, like radio, is here to stay, and though we may bemoan certain aspects of inferior programs, we must be ready to use those better portions which can add to the cultural background of the young placed under our guidance.

Carefully-chosen material can give a child a literary taste which will enrich his whole life. Much of a child's integrity, self-confidence and appreciation of the rights of others can come from the books read to him if they are

Mrs. Friermood is author of the poem, "My Mother Read to Me," which appeared in February 1950 RECREATION.

of the best quality. Everyone reads some trash sooner or later, but the child given a good background in his own family is less likely to succumb to the tawdry, vulgar fare offered in many comics and in other cheap material.

Young people need emotional stability and spiritual understanding to temper their living in this modern world. One of the best ways of acquiring these qualities is through closer acquaintance with the best in our literary heritage. The ideal place for such acquaintance is in the family-reading-aloud circle.

In choosing books to read aloud, do not be satisfied with less than the best. Children and young people are extremely intelligent and find gratification in stretching their mental capabilities to meet the challenge of new ideas

and colorful vocabulary. Youth is quick to sense when an author is writing down to them. Beatrix Potter knew this and, consequently, every generation loves her books, noted for their excellent writing and vivid vocabulary.

No bit of poetry can be enjoyed to the fullest unless it is read aloud, for poetry is music and music must be heard to be really appreciated or understood. Many adults dislike poetry because they remember with distaste the tearing apart process to get the meaning—which too often is a part of

Some public libraries, such as that in Cleveland, have available a list of books, broken down into age groups, which are good to read aloud.—Ed.

the method used in teaching it. Poetry is as fragile as a delicate piece of filmy lace and, like it, cannot be made whole again if clumsily torn apart. The beauty of sound and thought in poetry is apparent only when it is read aloud intelligently in its entirety. Adults may begin to enjoy it for the first time while introducing it to their children. Reading poetry aloud may well make a meeting place where youth and adults find the best in each other.

Walter de la Mare once said, "I know well that only the rarest kind of best in anything can be good enough for the young." Leaders in leisure-time activities can do much to introduce "the rarest kind of best" in literature into their own family circles and into the family circles of those they lead.

A Lively Archery Program

Del Coonrod

HUNTINGTON PARK, California, is the home ground of an active and strong archery club, where the club program includes not only activities on the range, but hot cake breakfasts before the shoots, pot luck dinners and an annual Christmas party.

In 1939 a group of amateur, but enthusiastic, archers founded the club which today is known as the Huntington Park Archers. On city-owned property, now the Municipal Recreation Park, willing hands set about clearing a field large enough for tournaments.

You may now drive to within one hundred feet of the shooting line. Here you will find a well-cared-for field of closely-cropped grass, a building for storing club property and patio-type facilities for picnic lunches. Rest rooms adjoining the field are modern, clean.

The field itself is carefully surveyed so that the line of fire is due north. The fine backstops are a permanent type, the city furnishing new hay each six months. These items make it one of the most popular ranges in California.

Del Coonrod is secretary of above-mentioned Huntington Park Archery Club.

Blessed with the fine southern California weather, the Huntington Park Archers hold monthly tournaments throughout the year. Generally, the rounds recognized by the National Archery Association are planned for the day's shoot, but two or three times during the year a novelty shoot is in order. The big event of the year is the annual championship held in May. At the banquet the evening following the tourney, appropriate trophies and medals are awarded to the winners. Eleven months prior to May, every member devotes the largest part of his leisure time to practise on the range in order to make this the most hotly-contested tourney of the year—at the same time receiving all the benefits of clean, healthful, relaxing outdoor exercises. *Relaxation* is the innate keynote of archery success, both therapeutically and competitively.

The beginner or junior archer, if he desires, receives willing and expert assistance even to the point of being loaned or given unused tackle by the Huntington Park archery members. A junior club is sponsored and supervised by the senior organization. It is a club within a club, in that the juniors handle

their own funds and elect their own officers. Also, a great deal of help is given to them by the recreation department. Each year, during the summer months, the archery range is the site of a day camp for school children. Under the supervision of competent instructors furnished by the department of recreation, regularly-scheduled classes are offered. Enrollment is overflowing.

Archery is a sport beneficial not only to individuals but to an entire group. So it is natural that the club should affiliate with, and adhere to, the rules of such larger organizations as the Southern California Archery Association, the California State Archery Association and the National Archery Association.

Each month at the business meeting in the city recreation building, refreshments and entertainment follow the business details. This is also the site of other gay and enjoyable feasts.

Thus, the Huntington Park Archers work together and play together for the mutual benefit of all and to provide the finest in recreation, so necessary to the welfare of everyone in this very busy community.



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NATIONAL COMMITTEE *studies* RECREATION RECORDS

PROGRESS in the development of a standard form for reporting the services of public recreation departments is reported by the Committee on Statistics for Public Recreation, appointed in 1950 to study this problem. Recreation Executives have long recognized the importance of keeping accurate records of recreation service. Yet the problem of securing, tabulating and using attendance and service records baffles many recreation departments, in part because of their limited staffs and budgets.

Some executives attempt to avoid the problem by keeping few records. As a result they do not have access to information that is essential to effective administration and fiscal and program planning. At the other extreme are recreation executives who adopt report forms which call for excessive detail. Filling out these forms requires time of staff members that might better be devoted to program planning and activity leadership. Furthermore, the data entered on the reports are so voluminous that a careful analysis of their contents is seldom possible. Workers tend to become careless in filling out their reports when they realize that these are not read promptly nor studied with care.

Among the main objectives of the Committee on Statistics for Public Recreation are:

(1) *Determine the kinds of records which are most useful to the recreation department and which can be secured*

readily and used effectively. Each department must determine for itself the types of records essential for its needs and which should be furnished through the reports of its workers. The recommendations of the committee, however, will indicate the basic types of records which are considered of primary importance and which can be secured with a minimum expenditure of time and effort.

(2) *Prepare simple, yet adequate, report forms which permit the easy, accurate recording of the essential data.* Some forms in current use yield little information of value to the recreation department; others are too complex and call for information that cannot be supplied readily by the individual workers using them. Report forms are often so arranged as to provide either too much or too little space for entering the data, or as to make tabulations difficult. It is expected that these shortcomings will be avoided in the form devised by the committee.

(3) *Provide a set of instructions for the guidance of persons who are to submit the data.* Procedures must be indicated and terms must be defined clearly if report forms are to be filled out accurately and uniformly and if records are to be useful for comparative purposes. When the interpretation of the forms is left to the judgment of the individual workers, reports should clearly indicate the procedure to be followed in entering the data.

(4) *Outline a procedure for compil-*

ing and using the reports submitted by the individual workers. Executives cannot justify the expenditure of time by their workers in preparing reports unless they themselves make full use of the information recorded. Some departments have not set up effective procedures for accomplishing this. The committee proposes to outline a suggested procedure whereby the records submitted by individual workers can be consolidated into a report for the department as a whole.

The chairman of the Committee on Statistics for Public Recreation is James S. Stevens, superintendent of recreation in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Committee members appointed jointly by the American Recreation Society and the National Recreation Association include: George Adams, Philadelphia, Penna.; Josephine Blackstock, Oak Park, Ill.; Mrs. T. S. Brungardt, Montpelier, Vt.; Harold Callowhill, Baltimore, Md.; R. Walter Cammack, Whittier, Calif.; Milo F. Christiansen, Washington, D. C.; Donald Dyer, Milwaukee, Wis.; Alvin Eggeling, Oklahoma City, Okla.; William Frederickson, Jr., Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Marion Wood Huey, Miami Beach, Fla.; C. Evan Johnson, Newton Center, Mass.; Ernest W. Johnson, St. Paul, Minn.; Alvin G. Kenney, Boston, Mass.; Thomas W. Lantz, Tacoma, Wash.; Philip Le Boutillier, Irvington, N. J.; Jay Ver Lee, Colorado Springs, Colo.; J. Liddy, Newark, N. J.; Harold G. Myron, Highland Park, Mich.; Mrs. Verna Rensvold, Kansas City, Mo.; Jesse Reynolds, Richmond, Va.; Allen E. Risedorph, Pittsburgh, Penna.; Julie J. Root, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Sol Z. Rosenbaum, Milwaukee, Wis.; George Sargisson, Wilmington, Del.; William P. Witt, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Committee members appointed by Community Chests and Councils of America, Inc., are: Emanuel Berlotsky,

James S.
Stevens



National Jewish Welfare Board, New York, N. Y.; Arthur H. Jette, New Haven, Conn.; Robert Kerschbaum, Toledo, Ohio; Ruth Pease, Baltimore, Md.; Florence Ray, Cleveland, Ohio; Helen Rowe, Camp Fire Girls, Inc., New York, N. Y.; Harry Serotkin, Pittsburgh, Penna.

Ex-officio members are: W. T. McCullough and Bernice Bridges, chairman and vice-chairman respectively,

Committee on Recreation, Informal Education and Group Work, Social Statistics Project; Harry L. Stoops, president, American Recreation Society; and Arthur H. Kruse, chairman, Advisory Committee of the Social Statistics Project. Kenneth Wood, Community Chests and Councils of America, Inc., and George D. Butler, of the National Recreation Association, are serving as staff for the committee.

A REPORT FROM NATIONAL RECREATION CONGRESS*

Recreation on the Campus

A GROUP of college leaders sat down to thrash out some problems together in a discussion meeting on the above subject at the National Recreation Congress in Cleveland. In summarizing their discussion, the general feeling seemed to be that the size of the college campus necessarily is a determining factor in reaching any decision as to where administration of a campus recreation program belongs.

They agreed that a recreation director may be attached to the physical education department or to the office of the dean of women, the dean of men or the dean of students to effect a co-ordination of recreation activities. Such an arrangement is sound in principle but difficult in practice. An alternate arrangement is that the director should not be under any one department but should supplement all departments. This would mean that, as coordinator, he would perhaps report to the president through the provost of the university. The coordinator should have a policy-making council made up of faculty members and students. Council members might be recommended by the dean of students and appointed by the president. The latter system is being suggested at the University of Illinois.

There are bound to be overlaps in any system of administration since it is difficult and time-consuming to work out who is to govern what. Three divisions were considered under administration:

A. Finance—Various means are used

to finance the campus recreation program, such as:

1. Student union fee, with funds apportioned for activities.
2. Student fund, made up of one dollar per student per year and controlled by the students advised by the recreation director. The college pays staff personnel. The director may have a separate budget from which he can supplement the program funds.
3. Dance fund, such as at Oberlin. There, if more is earned than expected from a dance, the extra goes into the dance fund. If there's a deficit, a withdrawal is made from the dance fund up to one half of the total of that fund.
4. Regular university budget. The group felt that the recreation program should be included in this.

B. Personnel—It is not easy to find suitable candidates for the position of recreation director or coordinator. Qualifications should include:

1. Academic standing. Candidate should have good relationships and contacts with the faculty so as to be able to work more easily with faculty members. He might teach in the recreation department.
2. Personality appealing to students.
3. Youth. He should be young enough to be close to students and yet have dignity and be old enough to maintain standing with the faculty and administrative officers.
4. Familiarity with the school. He must know the administrative organization of his university.

C. Program—The group had time to

discuss only one program problem. The suitcase-college has many students who go home on week ends. For those left on campus, the University of Denver plans day and week-end trips, providing a bus and station wagon as transportation. If the director can encourage other faculty members to go as chaperones—especially taking their families—he is left free to plan with those remaining on the campus. Trips are an opportunity for the faculty and students to meet outside of class.

Other colleges plan mostly social programs, such as open house teas, dances or informal activities.

It was suggested that the coordinator should use members of the recreation club and recreation majors in working with groups. His job is leadership, and these students can obtain valuable experience from him.

The scheduling of the campus calendar and facilities is a real problem. A student policy committee, rather than a single person, is needed to make the decision on such questions as that of giving joint service when the gym floor must be used for both basketball and cultural activities. (It was suggested that Borax Spangles could be used on the floor for a dance and be mopped up with squeegees afterward.)

Passing from the three administrative divisions, the group considered two further problems regarding campus recreation.

1. The need for a continuous program to interpret to the faculty the campus recreation program.

2. The need to educate students for wise use of leisure time in college and for adult life; to teach them recreation skills. A required cultural course in recreation for all students is needed in order to expose them to a variety of activities—especially those which can be practiced by the individual in later years. New York University conducts such a course, entitled "Personal Living."

The following studies have been made of campus recreation:

"Informal Survey of Campus Recreation Studies Done in Far West States"—June Breck and June Brasted, U.C. L.A. and Mills College, California.

"Study of College Recreation Programs, 1950"—J. O. Miller, University of Indiana.

"Leisure Activities of Sophomore Class at U.C.L.A."—Jean Swenson and Jessie Rhulman.

*Summarized by Priscilla R. Urner, now the area director for the Southern Prince Georges County in Maryland.



Two members of the recreation department classes make their hobby pay.

From Hobby to Business

THAT A HOBBY can be more than just a pleasure is best demonstrated by two Pekin, Illinois, women who are making good use of their hands, and in so doing have turned hobby to profit and have established a venture that has the earmarks of a potential, full-fledged business. Their talents, incidentally, were developed in the handcrafts classes sponsored by the Pekin Playground and Recreation Board. The two friends have combined natural talent for art with shrewd business instincts to set the groundwork for their business venture, which they have named "Celestial Arts."

Specifically, they turn out delicate hand-made Chinese ming trees for resale at leading department stores and have since turned to water colors on cork and paper, beautifully framed to enhance the art.

Mrs. Charles Mickle, better known as Fran of "Fran's Beauty Shop," has set up a display of the art in her shop in the Pekin theater building, where the infant business budded and bloomed from a chance remark from a patron. One of her customers had a "kit" containing all the necessary materials for a ming tree, which were said to be "easily assembled." The patron clipped the ad and asked Fran if she knew anyone who could put the tree together according to instructions. Fran thought

of Mrs. Sherman Burdick, a former commercial photographer with a natural talent for art, and that is when the project got its start.

The first effort resulted in a beautiful product—one which was on display for some time before the customer returned to collect it. As a consequence, other patrons saw it, and order after order was handed to the two women. The kits were soon discarded, however, because they were too expensive and because they limited the size of the ming trees. From then on supplies were bought in wholesale lots.

Word got around and soon the projects were on display at Jones Brothers' jewelry store; and enough orders were received to keep both women busy during all their spare time. Next they branched into the Block and Kuhl department stores which are scattered over the northern and central parts of the state.

The California concern that supplies the materials was a bit slow in filling orders, and these energetic workers couldn't stand the monotony of idle time, so they turned to water-color painting.

Clinging to the Oriental theme, they turn out large portraits in vivid colors of Chinese dances, all on sheets of cork and appropriately framed and mounted. Then there are their series of tribal

heads, done on ordinary paper in water color, plus relief figurines—all hand-painted.

Even lamps are made from clay molds in Oriental fashion and painted by hand. Miniature Chinese figures add to the collection and are favorites of art connoisseurs.

The lone Chinese figurine placed beneath the ming tree has graduated on occasions to full Chinese gardens, complete with a variety of flowers, characteristic bridges and as many as six figures. These models sell for as much as sixty dollars, with the simpler ming trees on sale for as little as ten dollars. All models are fair traded and sell for the same price in each of the nineteen stores handling them.

These novel handcraft products are formed of bits of driftwood, bark, lichen, moss, wire and plaster of Paris and are enclosed in a bit of pottery; they really have to be seen to be appreciated.

During the past winter, the Pekin Playground and Recreation Board handcrafts classes included figurine painting, shellcraft, block printing, leathercraft, cork craft, textile painting, china painting, Flex Craft, Crystall-craze painting and felt craft.

Contributed by Barney B. Maticka, Superintendent of Recreation, Pekin, Ill.

How To Do It!

by Frank C. Staples

MAKE WIRE JEWELRY.

All you need - pliers and
12, 16, or 20 gauge wire.

Copper, Tinned Copper,
Enameled Copper or Brass.

HERE'S How!

For Earrings -

Bend wire into closed spirals.



Attach earclip on back.
Use household cement.
Get earclips
at 10¢ store.

Suggested Spirals



For Bracelet and Necklace -

Spiral units attached.



Hook and eye
fastening.



Bend opposite
direction - here

Hook unites
together

Color plain copper jewelry with liver of sulphur.

the Business office

Mildred Scanlon

HAPPY is the community center director whose work is also his recreation; but even he must remember the *business* of recreation and that certain business-like procedures must be observed even in so informal a place as the average community center.

Somewhere in the building there should be an office. If space is somewhat limited, it certainly cannot be the biggest or most desirable room since this must be set aside for the library, small interest groups—such as the dramatics club, the music hour, the great book program—or even as practice rooms for the hillbilly band, swingers, glee club, choral group and so on.

Of course, if the director is lucky enough to have a building that has more than enough large rooms, there's no reason why one of these should not serve as his office. Generally speaking, however, the office doesn't have to be as large as most people think.

From the very beginning, everyone who enters the center should understand that while all the rest of the building is at his disposal, the office is not. This is a place of business, not another lounge.

It's natural for the group to want to congregate in the spot where the director is; for this very reason, he plans his work so that he will not be in his office during rush hours, except in cases of absolute necessity. At such times, he undoubtedly wants privacy, perhaps for a phone call or an unexpected business appointment or conference requiring no audience.

Occasionally one of the members

Miss Mildred Scanlon is a leadership training specialist on the staff of the National Recreation Association.

wants a word with the director—or vice versa—in private. The logical place should be the office, but the interview won't be too successful if it is constantly interrupted by passers-by dropping in for a minute and remaining until they are asked to leave.

Business people or interested citizens who drop in to offer goods or services or to make arrangements for the use of certain rooms are favorably impressed with a clean, well-organized, business-like office. They also are impressed with a clean, well-organized, office filled with empty coke bottles and coffee cups, overflowing ashtrays, candy and gum wrappers and with hordes of people—the young ladies perched upon the desk and the young men with their hats upon their heads and their feet upon the furniture—cluttering up the office.

Sometimes the attraction in the office is not the director, it's the telephone. This is a wonderful invention surely, but at times such a problem that you wish you could get along without it. You can't, of course; you need it for business transactions and for emergency calls. (Incidentally, know and post any emergency numbers. We hope you'll never have to use them, but if the occasion should arise, you don't want to have to take the time to look up the police, the fire department or the nearest doctor in the phone book.) Moreover, perhaps the assistant isn't as familiar as you might think with all the business transactions which you usually handle yourself. In your absence on the night of a big dance, let's say, when the lights go out, the mike won't work, the plumbing neges, the band or refreshments fail to appear, it will certainly help her

no end to be able to locate the correct telephone numbers on the list.

An office phone is not like a personal phone. The line must be left open for incoming business calls. Of course, the community center's population can use the phone for little emergencies. They will need to call home occasionally about transportation or change of plans. Their parents might want to call them about much the same things. These calls should be approved by the director. He is simply guarding against the long, drawn-out boy and girl calls or the girl-to-girl gab fests that block the line.

With a business phone in the building, it's necessary that someone be responsible for it during all the time the center is open. It might just happen that some parent must locate a child in a hurry. If she knows he's at the center, calls and gets no answer to the operator's frantic ringing, she has a right to be upset.

Here again is where the youth council or junior leaders can come in handy. They can have a regular schedule and even get some of their school work done while they sit in the quiet office listening for the phone. Needless to say, these folks should observe the director's rules about social visits, food and so forth in the office.

Actually, it's good business training for them—particularly if you teach them telephone courtesy and the correct method of answering and identifying themselves. What's more, it's a great step toward a more efficient and smoother running center.

Recreation has assumed a professional status. Let's have the recreation workers and their offices have the same professional appearance and approach found in other professions.

what's NEW.

Auto-Chess

THE MILTON BRADLEY COMPANY of Springfield, Massachusetts, introduces its new Auto-Chess as a game which can teach the newest chess enthusiast to play within three hours' time.

It sells for \$6.95 and includes a complete set of plastic chessmen, a board with a plastic cover and eighty-two instruction sheets and problems.



These sheets can be inserted under the plastic top, helping an individual to learn as he plays. The problems are increasingly difficult, but each sheet contains the moves and diagrams necessary to complete the solution.

Auto-Chess challenges all age groups and enables a larger group of players to enjoy this quiet game of skill without demanding constant and personal supervision.

Decorating with Decals

The Meyercord Company, 5323 West Lake Street, Chicago 44, Illinois, distributes a bulletin to answer the increasing number of questions received about its Decal-Craft, a modern help in teaching color and design.

Hand-painted effects are easily achieved on any surface merely by the process of transferring colorful Decal designs. These are available in a multitude of colors and themes and a wide variety is available at your local hardware, paint, department, notion and five-and-ten cent stores. Many Decal

sheets contain several designs to suit the needs of your crafts group.

Summer's Around the Corner

A new diving board and All-American Picnic Grill are among the products recently developed by the American Playground Device Company of Anderson, Indiana.

The grill boasts perfect draft control with its fully-enclosed fire bowl and its six-way adjustable draft door, which produces exactly the required temperature and heats all parts of the grids evenly.

Not only does the adjustable draft improve the quality of the food, but it also means a big saving in fuel, since no heat is wasted in getting the grids hot enough for use. There's a massive one-piece oven, two waffle-type top grids and a one-piece removable grate. Burning wood, coal or charcoal, the grill provides a full 25½-inch by 24-inch grilling and warming area. The ample space beneath the grid may be used for baking or for warming foods. The grill is mounted upon a tested steel pipe support, so that by turning it to leeward as the wind shifts, the cook avoids getting a face full of smoke.

Both the portable and stationary models are on the market. The portable model, weighing 160 pounds and having a base of heavy stove iron, may easily be moved from one location to another. The stationary model, designed for installation in concrete, weighs 140 pounds. In both cases, the grill is readily removed from the support for easy storage.

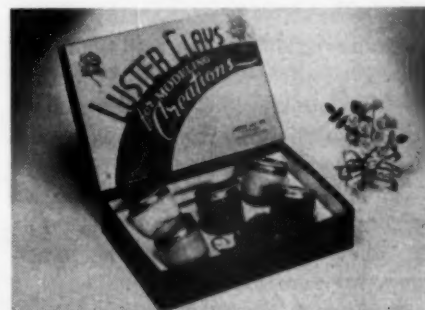
The American official regulation diving board is solid laminated, constructed exclusively of the top grades of clear, 100 per cent flat dense grain, old growth Douglas fir, carefully selected for moisture content and texture. Each of the twelve laminated sections comprising the board is surfaced, planed and sanded to assure perfect

glue joints. The board is prime coated and handsomely finished with two coats of special Johnson's Wax-O-Namel.

The American official regulation diving board comes in lengths of twelve, fourteen and sixteen feet. It is twenty inches wide, three inches thick at the base, tapers to a thickness of one and one-half inches at the diving tip and conforms fully to AAU official regulations.

Luster Clay

A new, colored ceramic clay, with unique properties which make it easy for even beginners to create lifelike artificial flowers and many other decorative ceramic pieces, has been placed on the market by Luster Art Company, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Luster Clay, the new product, requires no firing or glazing and dries with a hard lustrous finish within a few hours. The clay is rolled and pressed between the fingers into different shapes and simply pressed onto the stems. The flowers dry hard in a few hours and are then ready for use.

The clay is sold in complete sets containing leaves and stems for flowers and five jars of clay in white, pink, green, yellow and blue. A few other permanent colors also are available and may easily be blended to produce virtually any shade that may be desired. Luster Clay is ready for modeling just as it comes from the jar, requiring no preparation.

PERSONNEL

Special Notice

The community recreation movement, from a personnel point of view, had just about recovered from the staggering blow received from World War II when the present emergency developed. The movement had lost many of its best workers not only for the duration of the war but permanently. The present situation is making it necessary for us to extend and multiply our recruiting efforts, and it is hoped that professional workers and friends of recreation in this country will be on the alert to discover and direct new prospects to the National Recreation Association's personnel service.

In connection with the association's cooperative relationship with the armed forces, we shall continue to keep their needs in mind as we plan our recruiting campaigns. Also, in accordance with official requests, we shall do everything possible to identify qualified recreation personnel as they are drafted for military service or called for other emergency assignments.

Workers in the field could help during the present emergency by letting the association know when they, or members of their staffs or associates, are to be called for military duty. This information is important for various reasons. In the first place, it will help us to assist the armed forces in Washington to find qualified recreation personnel. They, in turn, can assist in getting recreation workers assigned to their field of specialization. This procedure should be to the mutual advantage of both military and professional workers. In the second place, this advance information will help us to keep

important officials informed, including those responsible for war manpower and the United Defense Fund, regarding the general situation throughout the country. Also, it will help us in the over-all planning of our field service, recruiting campaigns and training programs.

Positions Available

The armed services have an immediate need for about three hundred workers to man the overseas clubs. These vacancies, for the most part, call for experienced women between the ages of twenty-four and thirty-five. There are a number of vacancies at the various army headquarters in the continental United States. See the *NRA Playground and Recreation Bulletin Service*, November 1950, for listing.

Executives for small communities continue to be in demand. A number of recent graduates from our recreation training schools have found such positions and are operating successfully. (A few of these include Herbert McMichael, appointed superintendent of recreation in Burlington, New Jersey; Donald MacMillan, apprentice, Westchester County, New York; Clarence Hunsinger, assistant superintendent of recreation, Plainfield, New Jersey; John T. McHugh, superintendent of recreation for Montpelier, Vermont; Robert W. Ruhe, superintendent of recreation in LaPorte, Indiana; and James K. Williams, superintendent of recreation in Keene, New Hampshire.) There are many others, of course, who went into staff positions in public departments and private agencies.

Several positions are available in the rural field and in connection with the university training programs.

A year or so ago at the national con-

vention of the American Psychiatric Association, one speaker declared that in addition to doctors of various kinds, nurses, occupational therapists and attendants, eight thousand recreation therapists would be needed within the next ten years. There is growing evidence of the recognition of the importance of recreation leaders in the hospital field. *Minnesota*—employed approximately sixty recreation workers in state mental hospitals in recent months; several vacancies for supervisors still exist. *California*—positions are available for recreation therapists in state mental hospitals. A second group of applicants may take examinations on February 15, 1951, at locations as near the residence of applicants as conditions warrant and as examining facilities permit.

Candidates who reside in other states will be interviewed as soon as arrangements can be made and as near their homes as possible. Immediate employment is available in several mental institutions. (For further details see *NRA Bulletin Service*, November 1950.)

It looks as if the demand in this specialized area would increase, and it is encouraging to note that some training institutions are giving it more attention. The University of Minnesota has set up a new recreation curriculum on the graduate level for the training of recreation workers in hospitals.

Positions are available in various parts of the country with the YWCA, which wants directors of teen-age programs and young adult programs. Applications should be made directly to Personnel Services, Membership Resources, National Board, YWCA, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

W. C. Sutherland is the director of the NRA Recreation Personnel Service.

Emergency Affecting Local Services

The military program is beginning to affect regular local and state agencies. Louis Twardzik, state recreation consultant in Tennessee, has just left for service in the United States Marines. Mary Howard, superintendent of recreation in York, Pennsylvania, will soon sail for Europe for service with the American Red Cross. Richard Strasser has left for the United States Army Air Corps, and Ralph J. Andrews, director of the North Carolina Recreation Commission, has been returned to government service. Others are expecting Uncle Sam's invitation and may be called at any time. In fact, as we go to press, we have further learned that Robert Hunter, superintendent of parks and recreation, Roanoke, Virginia, and Frank Jacobelli, superintendent of recreation, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, are leaving immediately for service in the United States Navy.

News About People

Jay Ver Lee, superintendent of recreation in Colorado Springs, left recently for a three months' assignment in Germany. There, at the request of the State Department, he will be advising German communities as to the organization of community recreation services. Others overseas on a more permanent basis in recreation and youth services include Austin Welch, Katherine Shankland, Clayton Jones, Harry Gloré and Tam Deering. James Garrison is still in Europe with the United States Army, possibly somewhere in Austria. Sylvia Weckesser, who has

been living in England for a number of years, is returning to America and may again become active in professional recreation. A graduate of the National Recreation School, she served on the staff in Houston, Texas, and just prior to her marriage was superintendent of recreation in York, Pennsylvania.

Ralph McClintock, superintendent of the Park and Recreation Department in Omaha, received an interesting award this year from the Pilgrim Baptist Church. It was an achievement award for his firm stand against racial prejudice.

Mrs. Ruth Pike has been added to the staff of the State Recreation Commission in Washington as a recreation specialist to work with community organization and research.

Harold Teel replaces George R. Vestal as superintendent of the Hayward Area Park and Recreation District, Oakland, California. Mr. Vestal has received an appointment with the California State Disaster Council.

William Cuthbertson, recreation consultant for the Missouri Resource and Development Commission, has resigned and is now with the President's Committee on Religion and Welfare in the Armed Forces.

Training

It is particularly encouraging to see local departments providing new opportunities in the area of apprentice training. The Westchester County Recreation Commission has just taken on a young apprentice, and the recreation

department in Kansas City, Missouri, has several opportunities available. This training offers experience in the broad field of public administration, with particular attention to the administration of county and municipal recreation services.

The Implementation Committee on Graduate Study and the Executive Committee on Undergraduate Training have merged and are now known as the Continuing Committee. This is an outgrowth of two national conferences held in Jackson's Mill, West Virginia, and Pere Marquette State Park in Illinois on undergraduate and graduate preparation in the fields of health education, physical education and recreation.

The new committee will have as one of its purposes the promotion of national, regional, state and local conferences and workshops in an effort to improve training. The National Recreation Association will serve on one of the four subcommittees which have just been appointed.

PLEASE NOTE

In the past, announcements of positions have appeared from time to time in the *NRA Playground and Recreation Bulletin Service*. Increasingly and as far as prospective employers permit us to do so, announcements of available positions will be made in *RECREATION* magazine, the *Bulletins*, and in the *Membership Newsletter*.

New Sources of Recreation Funds Essential

The need for enlarging the financial base for the support of municipal recreation and park departments is especially acute in cities that are expanding their areas and facilities. This need is recognized in the latest budget message of the mayor of Los Angeles as one that demands action. The message asserts the importance of the recreation and parks function and points out that the expanding program and future plans of the department of recreation and parks will mean increasing costs.

The mayor therefore recommended the imposing of a tax, the proceeds of which would be used exclusively to meet the needs of the department. He indicated objection to an ad valorem

tax in view of the burden already carried by real property. The possibilities for new tax revenue and the principles underlying the application of such a tax, which he outlined, merit study.

"Merely to call attention to possibilities, without recommending any specific tax for this purpose, the following suggestions have been made: (1) a local cigarette tax, (2) a ten per cent admission tax equivalent to the amount to be relinquished by the United States Government, if and when the federal revenue measure is amended by Congressional action. A computation indicates that this would yield within the city of Los Angeles about \$3,987,000 per annum, taking into consideration a de-

crease of more than eighteen per cent in admission tax receipts by the collector of internal revenue during the first ten-month period of the fiscal year. Whatever tax is imposed for this purpose, it should be one contributed to in some amount, however small, by the individuals or members of the families of those who use community recreation centers and playground facilities. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that these functions of city government are for the general welfare and that playgrounds serve to decrease juvenile delinquency, thus reducing the cost of crime and justifying almost any kind of a revenue measure that might be imposed for municipal purposes."

Suggestion Box



Filing RECREATION Magazine

SOMEWHERE, recently, we read about an interesting and simple method of magazine filing, for purposes of easy reference, which will just suit some of our RECREATION hoarders. Now that the magazine is a new size, why not set up your own system accordingly?

Clip the contents page from each issue and paste on the right hand page of a loose-leaf notebook, underlining those articles to which you may wish to refer later, and leave the left-hand page blank for your own comments and notes.



At the end of the year you'll have a notebook of ten pages on which your pet ideas are clearly marked and easily identifiable.

Pile a neat stack of the monthly issues, in *chronological order*, upon one of your shelves so that any given number will be easily at hand. Then, by turning to your notebook of contents and running your finger down the list, you quickly can locate that helpful article at the moment when you need it most. Simple, eh?

If any of you have further ideas for simplified filing or indexing, please let us know!

Publicity Tips

No recreation department in Florida or Georgia gets more newspaper publicity than the Jacksonville department. A staff member is assigned the responsibility of preparing it and of keeping in touch with the press. There is scarcely an issue of a Jacksonville paper that does not carry at least one article on recreation.

Don't forget to give your volunteers publicity; let their names appear in the papers, for people are always interested in reading what local folks are doing; it's *news*! Learn to spell publicity with those four letters N-E-W-S. Plan your special events with someone on the program who has news value in the community. Make that the lead of your release, going into the reason for the event in the second or third paragraph. Then it becomes the newspaper's business and pleasure to print the *news* of your event.

Remember that a news story should give the answers to the five "W's" in the lead of the story—who, what, where, when and why. These should appear in the first paragraph or in two short paragraphs and are for the purpose of producing a quick, clean and *accurate* picture in the mind of the reader. Turn to your own newspaper for illustrations galore.

Valentine Preparations

Everybody likes to make valentines—especially the younger children. So why not have some pre-Valentine's Day parties or get-togethers for this purpose? If a regular valentine party is in the offing, decorations could be made at the same time. During this activity, lessons of friendship, unselfishness and good will can be impressed upon the children, without emphasis on the sentimental associations of the day. As a matter of fact, the group might decide to make extra valentines for hospital patients, shut-ins or some similar group. Scissors, paste and ideas can be used for family fun too—all spread out on the kitchen or dining-room table.

Many of the necessary supplies can be collected at home—old valentines, magazines, Christmas cards, funny papers and sample wallpaper books. Otherwise scissors, paste, red cardboard, red and white crepe paper and white paper doilies are needed. For party decorations, inexpensive paper drinking cups might be added. These lend themselves to all kinds of covering

designs, which the children should make up for themselves, and can be used for nuts or candies. Twisted crepe paper handles can be added. Other possibilities are placemats, placecards, crepe paper hats and a box covered with crepe paper and attractive furbishings, to act as a mailbox for the future affair. Girls' or women's groups might like to try their hands at making heart-shaped cookies, biscuits or candies;



while sewing groups could contribute heart-shaped pin cushions, sachets. These could be used as favors or for hospital patients. Scrapbooks would be nice, too.

For the valentines themselves, in addition to pretty lacy ones, don't forget the funny ones—but be sure that the humor is impersonal. Cut-outs from the funny papers can be helpful here, but encourage originality. People from the nature study group, for instance, will have good ideas about bird or animal valentines and, of course, everyone will think of flowers.

Example of What NOT to Do

One recreation and playground program has not been too successful because it did not come out of a desire of the parents to provide a program for their children, but was the project of a club in making a record in a state and national contest.

Guide for Newcomers

A city guide for newcomers to the community, including information of special interest to young married people, was prepared and published by the Schenectady Youth Council. Other features are indicated by the following table of contents: Schenectady, Past and Present (Characteristics of Everyday Life); All Work and No Play (Recreational Facilities); The Shortest Distance Between Two Points (Transportation Guide); Who We Are and What We've Been (Schenectady's History in Brief); Pursuit of the Muse (Educational Facilities Available); Points of Interest Near Schenectady (Suggestions for Short and Longer Trips); Remember the Sabbath (Church Guide).

A hand-drawn map of the city, upon which the various recommended places were keyed, was pasted on the inside back cover of the booklet.

IN THE FIELD

William M. Hay



RECENTLY appointed as representative for the National Recreation Association in the southern district, soft-spoken, curly-haired Bill Hay from Tennessee has an interesting background and an excellent record in association state work to take to his new assignment.

Bill is one of those likable, folksy Southerners who is as sold on the South as a Brooklynite is sold on the Dodgers. He was raised in Memphis, except for two never-to-be forgotten years in Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas, and has roamed the southern states ever since. The years in Fayetteville were filled with such boyhood delights as camping and fishing on White River, swimmin' in spring creeks, exploring caves and watermelon patches, attendin' singins', spellin' bees, box suppers at the one-teacher school to which he trekked three miles each day. At the age of ten to twelve it was not all play, however, for life on the farm in World War I was one of production. Bill cared for a one-acre garden, raised chickens, hogs and owned his first horse. He worked for neighbors in harvesting crops, such as strawberries, apples, potatoes and also helped with haymaking, spraying and the pruning of orchards. It was only natural for him to have an early desire to become a farmer instead of a policeman or cowboy.

From these early experiences have grown his hobbies. He likes the out-of-doors—fishing and hunting, swimming and horseback riding—and photography. Cook-outs, camping and nature study, like the others, are dear, but there is little time to keep up with these now.

While attending school in Memphis, he worked at the printer's trade preparatory to a printing or journalistic career.

Upon graduation from Christian Brothers College in Memphis, he continued this activity and studied journalism at night school until he had become a journeyman printer; after which he took a brief, but final, fling at the newspaper field. That yearning for the out-of-doors, coupled with the depression, brought a drastic change in his career.

Soon afterwards, on a two-hundred-mile canoe trip down the Mississippi, he reached a final realization that the land, our natural resources and our human resources are the most important things we have and that to them he wanted to devote his life's work. Upon deciding to travel to see the West, a job—and an opportunity to get more formal training—presented itself at Ft. Worth, Texas. For two and a half years thereafter he pursued studies in landscape architecture at North Texas Agriculture College, Arlington, and Iowa State College, Ames.

With the coming of the civilian conservation program, Bill secured a job as landscape foreman in the construction of state park areas in Tennessee. However, the work programs were not confined just to park construction, but included general experience in reforestation, erosion control conservation and the development of our natural scenic resources. As an extra-curricular activity, much time was spent with the enrollees in taking them on recreational outings—teaching them on the job and interesting them in nature. This aspect of the program brought real satisfaction as these young men, like all young Americans, were eager for expression—for recognition—to learn by doing—to realize the joy of achievement.

At the end of two years, an offer was received from the state of Tennessee

for a position as recreation assistant in the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture; this was in 1936. The job was one of cooperation with the National Park Service, USDA and other federal officials in the development of state parks and recreational areas. It was the first job to be established in the Tennessee state government with recreation in its title.

Things were moving fast in Tennessee because the great TVA movement was now well under way. This and the CCC program had created a consciousness of conservation and recreation. In early 1937, the legislature created a new Department of Conservation, bringing together agencies concerned with various aspects of conservation but previously unrelated administratively. It included forestry, game and fish, geology, advertising and information and a completely new Division of State Parks.

All recreational and park activities were transferred to the new Division of State Parks, and Bill was given an opportunity to take a hand in formulating the policies and objectives. A new title, one of those which means anything and includes everything, was acquired. "Land-Use Planner," according to Bill, "meant, in more simple words, General Flunkie." However, it allowed great latitude not only in the specific activity of state parks, but to recreation in the state generally. In 1937, as a result of much leg work, the Tennessee Recreation Association was created. Here all recreational interests came together—college presidents, chambers of commerce, city recreation people, rural and social agencies. Much activity was the result, growing until the war made it impossible. In 1937 the Park, Parkway and Recreation Area Study, sponsored by the National Park Service, was in-

initiated in Tennessee, and Bill was assigned to this comprehensive study.

In 1939 he assumed the duties of director of the Division of State Parks; and, during the ensuing years, received much help and inspiration from such stalwarts as J. B. Williams, first state representative of the National Recreation Association, Connie Wirth, Steamer Bursley and Al Edmunds of the National Park Service. Tennessee park management moved forward. In 1942, through a cooperative agreement with the TVA, a full-time recreation consultant to serve towns and counties was employed, and one of the first services of its kind initiated in the country. Because of the rapid increase in camping in seven state park group camps, the need for good camp leaders had been realized for several years; finally, in

1945, a two weeks' training program was conducted for camp directors and counselors.

During the war, a program was directed by the division, through Lanham Act Funds, to provide recreation and service to soldiers on maneuvers, in twenty-three towns of middle Tennessee.

Bill Hay is a member of the American Institute of Park Executives, National Conference on State Parks and one of the originators of the Association of Southeastern State Park Directors.

He has experienced the struggle to get funds for an important, but new, state service, and has pleaded with legislators for help and needed legislation. The job of selling parks and recreation to the public in general has been a real

one and a constant challenge. It was the realization of the problems of state officials, a knowledge of their sincerity and desire to do a good job and a sympathy and understanding for their problems and their accomplishments that helped Bill in working closely with them in his state work. He says, "It would have been impossible for me to work with state officials without having had these similar experiences. Being a state official is like giving birth to triplets—no one knows what you go through unless he has had the actual experience."

"I shall continue to work with them, wherever possible, in the further advancement of recreation in this region."

A closer cooperation with state officials is part of the district representative's job; so more power to you, Bill!

Did You Know?

... THAT in the preliminary preparations of the Texas Committee for Children and Youth for the White House Conference, questionnaires were sent to all counties in the state requesting a statement of needs for children and youth. The priority of needs as listed by 104 counties replying were as follows:

Recreation	94 counties
Library Service	90 counties
Health	89 counties
Education	83 counties
Child Care and Protection	77 counties
Handicapped	70 counties
Housing	70 counties
Employment	35 counties

... THAT as a result of the notice printed in the October 1949 issue of RECREATION, in which readers were asked to send their used copies to United States Information Libraries in foreign countries, the Department of State reports:

a. Almost all countries reported an in-flow of publications within one to two months after the first notice appeared.

b. Readers send not only RECREATION, but other publications in the same package. We consider this an important addition to the campaign and feel that it should be encouraged.

c. The mailing of your particular magazine seems to lack continuity. The reader will send one copy and then stop in future months, as indicated by the gradual dropping off of receipts in our foreign libraries.

The Department of State also notes that "magazines from the United States seem to be the most important unofficial 'Voice of America' that our offices can possibly expose to foreign populations. We hope, therefore, that you will make it possible for us to continue the steady flow of this valuable propaganda material."

... THAT Eugenics Pamphlet Number 66-AA on Home Museums is available, free, to all requests. It includes information on such subjects as "Raising Butterflies," "The Story of a Shut-In," and others. Write to C. M. Goethe, Capital National Bank Building, Seventh and J Streets, Sacramento 14, California.

... THAT the Milwaukee Common Council recently dedicated a playground to Dorothy C. Enderis, Director Emeritus of the Department of Municipal Recreation, who retired in 1948 after serving for twenty-six years as its head.

The Dorothy C. Enderis Playground is a 9.7 acre tract in one of the newer neighborhoods in Milwaukee. It boasts a fully-developed area with a field-house that has facilities for club meetings, crafts, cooking and out-of-door dramatics. The hardball and softball diamonds, as well as the tennis courts, have lighting for night use and are completely surfaced. Part of the area is grass and has a park-like appearance to suit the residential neighborhood.

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Magazines and Pamphlets

Scholastic Coach, November 1950

Fleetball for Gym Classes, Richard I. Miller.

Park Maintenance, November 1950

Park-Wise—Are You Keeping Up with the Times? John D. Pennekamp.

Public Golf Increasingly Grows in Demand, Harry L. Morrison, Jr.

Parks and Recreation, December 1950

Let Your Youngsters Build a Park for You, Anthony Cosenza.

Planning for Recreation Facilities and Program, George Hjelte.

Play Areas for Small Children, William Frederickson, Jr.

Sound Stages and Their Construction, Philip Jacobsen.

Journal of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, December 1950

Today in Square Dancing, Ed Durlacher.

An Integrated Community Recreation Program, Naidene Goy.

Educational Toys, Evelyn F. Bird.

How We Do It—Flicker Ball, Armond Seidler.

World Trends in Physical Education, Rachel Bryant.

Michigan Inter-Agency Council for Recreation, Edwin G. Rice.

Research Quarterly, December 1950

A Study of Boxing in Selected Colleges and Universities, William E. Harlon.

American City, December 1950

Standards for Garden Apartments, Harold S. Buttenheim.

Seattle's Civic Christmas Ship.

National Parent-Teacher, December 1950

Playthings and Play Therapy, Ethel Kavin.

Having Fun Together, Adele Franklin.

Journal of the National Education Association, December 1950

No More Roman Holidays (Highly Organized and Competitive Athletic Programs Have No Place in the Elementary and Junior High School), Laurence E. Houston.

Selected List of Latin American Song Books and References for Guidance in Planning Programs of Music and Dance,

prepared by Leila Fern Thompson. Department of Cultural Affairs, Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.

Conference of Leaders in Elementary Education. Federal Security Agency, Washington, D. C.

Senior Age Clubs, Jerry Caplan. Hennepin County Welfare Board, Minnesota.

Following Indian Trails, Camp Fire Girls, Incorporated, New York. \$.25.

Forced Landing, Frankie Culpepper Goerges and Frances Loomis Wallace. Camp Fire Girls, Incorporated, New York.

Arts and Crafts Thru the Seasons for Recreation Leaders. Recreation Division, Welfare Department, Kansas City, Missouri. \$1.00.

Junior Hy-Y Program Kit. Association Press, New York. \$1.50.

Modern Felt Handicraft. The Handcrafters, Waupun, Wisconsin. \$.50.

Metal Modeling Handicraft. The Handcrafters, Waupun, Wisconsin. \$.50.

FREE Table Tennis Information

Recreation Directors, Coaches, Scout Leaders, Y Directors, others. Nothing to buy. No entry fee. Simply hold a Table Tennis Tourney. We furnish awards, instructions, rules, etc. FREE. Simply send a 1 cent postcard for information.

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20 E. Jackson RM-1111A Chicago 4, Ill.

Books Received

Basketball for Girls, Wilhelmine E. Meissner and Elizabeth Yeend Meyers. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$1.50.

Boats, Airplanes and Kites, Armand J. LaBerge. Charles A. Bennett Company, Incorporated, Peoria, Illinois. \$2.50.

Cinderella's Friends, told by Jane Werner. Simon and Schuster, Incorporated, New York. \$2.50.

Day at the Zoo, A, Marion Conger. Simon and Schuster, Incorporated, New York. \$2.50.

Every Day's a Holiday, Ruth Hutchison and Ruth Adams. Harper and Brothers, New York. \$3.50.

Flies, J. Edson Leonard. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$5.00.

Skeet and Trapshooting, Dick Shaughnessy with Tap Goodenough. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$3.00.

Skiers' Song Book, The, compiled by David Kemp. Pacific Books, Palo Alto, California. \$2.50.

Social Welfare Forum, The, 1950. Published for the National Conference of Social Work by Columbia University Press, New York.

Sport Judo, Charles Yerkow. Stackpole and Heck, Incorporated, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. \$3.00.

State Recreation, Harold D. Meyer and Charles K. Brightbill. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$3.50.

Working with Teen-age Gangs, a report on the Central Harlem Street Clubs Project, Paul L. Crawford, Daniel J. Malamud and James R. Dumpson. Welfare Council of New York City. \$2.75.

Youth Hostel Story, Oliver Coburn. The National Council of Social Service, London, England. Available through the American Association of Social Workers, New York. \$1.40.



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new Publications

*Covering the
Leisure-time Field*

Square Dances of Today and How to Teach and Call Them

Richard Kraus. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$3.00.

DICK KRAUS, who is in charge of the square dance program at Teachers College, Columbia University, and teaches courses in folk, square, social and children's dances there, has led square dance groups in many parts of the country. He is also chairman of New York State's Westchester County Square Dance Association, and has been on the staff of Folk Festivals for the United Nations. With this background, he is in a position to know what he's talking about in this all-around manual for square dance callers and teachers—both those in the field and those who would like to enter it. Its how-to-do text is designed to help anyone organize and conduct a square dance program; and it offers new dance and instructional material to broaden the program of experienced dancers. The dances included are drawn from all parts of the country, a number of them being presented for the first time in book form; while the piano arrangements have been prepared with two ideas in mind: first, to preserve the folk character of the dances and, second, to keep the level of difficulty within the ability of the nonprofessional pianist. An article by Dick Kraus—"One World On Your Playground"—appeared in the April 1949 issue of RECREATION.

Planning the Older Years

Edited by Wilma Donahue and Clark Tibbitts, University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan. \$2.50.

ONE OF THE most recently-inaugurated projects, conducted through the close cooperation of campus departments and extension service at the University of Michigan, is the develop-

ment of a program in gerontology—in which courses, institutes or conferences, research and publications are involved. This is a joint experiment of the University's Institute for Human Adjustment and the extension service.

Assuming that those who have grown old know best the nature of the impact of that experience, the institute turned to the older people themselves in preparing an entire book, *Living Through the Older Years*, edited by Clark Tibbitts and published by the Michigan University Press in 1949.

The present book has been planned as a companion volume, its chapters being organized around three of the need areas which the older folks brought forth—living arrangements, recreational activities and employment.

Papers on these topics are presented by such authorities as: Nathan W. Shock, chief of the Cardiovascular Disease and Gerontology Section of the National Institutes of Health in the Public Health Service; Ollie A. Randall, consultant on services for the aged to the Community Service Society, New York City; Henry S. Curtis, Ph.D., lecturer, author and leader in the area of recreation and one of the founders of the Playground Association of America—now the National Recreation Association; Helen Graves Lane, assistant director of the Chicago Community Project for the Aged; and others.

Here is excellent background reading for those who are conducting or planning recreation programs for this age group.

Municipal Auditoriums

Farrell G. H. Symons. Public Administration Service, Chicago. \$2.50.

THIS PUBLICATION meets a long-felt need for up-to-date information on municipal auditorium management, operation, construction and costs. The object of Mr. Symons' survey was to

assemble factual data about the construction, management and operation of civic auditoriums throughout the country, and to present a discussion of some of the questions which these structures commonly involve.

The volume was prepared principally from responses submitted by 174 localities to questionnaires which included twenty-four specific questions and invited comments and suggestions from the various cities, based upon their experience. The officials supplying the information were most frequently, in the larger cities, the auditorium managers or the heads of departments controlling the auditorium; in the smaller cities, the mayor, city clerk or city manager most often responded.

The following titles from the table of contents indicate the specific nature of the data presented: Physical Aspects of Auditoriums, Management and Control, Financial Problems, Rental Schedules, Types, Facilities and Uses. Many statistics are presented for each of the auditoriums included in the study.

In the summary and conclusions, Mr. Symons states that the information assembled warrants the belief that auditoriums, by and large, have proved worthwhile undertakings for municipal governments. They can scarcely be regarded as important sources of revenue but they can meet definite community needs which, in many cases, could be satisfied by no other existing means.

One of the most useful sections of the report is the discussion of the factors which should be considered by a community contemplating the construction of a municipal auditorium. *Municipal Auditoriums* should prove of great assistance to cities now weighing the pros and cons of erecting auditoriums, as well as to those which already have such buildings.—George D. Butler, Director of Research, National Recreation Association.

Recreation Leadership Courses

(Sponsored jointly by the National Recreation Association and local recreation departments)

January, February and March 1951

HELEN DAUNCEY
Social Recreation

Toledo, Ohio
January 8-11

Bridgeport, Connecticut
February 5-8

Cohoes, New York
February 12-15

Richmond, Virginia
March 26-31

ANNE LIVINGSTON
Social Recreation

Greensboro, North Carolina
January 8-11

Fayetteville, North Carolina*
January 15-18

Winston-Salem, North Carolina
January 22-25

Salt Lake County, Utah
February 5-8

Ogden, Utah, and Weber County
February 12-15

Oakland, California
February 10-22

San Mateo, California
February 26-March 1

Redding, California
March 5-8

Long Beach, California
March 12-15

Santa Monica, California
March 26-29

MILDRED SCANLON
Social Recreation

Rockford, Alabama
January 8-12

Monroeville, Alabama
January 15-19

Chatom, Alabama
January 22-26

Camden, Alabama
January 29-February 2

Opelika, Alabama
February 5-9

Greenville, Mississippi
February 12-15

King County, Washington
March 5-22

FRANK STAPLES
Arts and Crafts

Greenville, South Carolina
January 8-11

Montgomery, Alabama
January 15-25

Roanoke, Virginia
January 29-February 8

Kinston, North Carolina*
February 12-22

High Point, North Carolina*
February 26-March 8

GRACE WALKER
Creative Recreation

Charlotte, North Carolina and
Fayetteville, North Carolina
January 27-February 3

Iowa
February 19-23

Warrenton, North Carolina
March 12-15

A. G. Morse, Supervisor of Recreation, Department of Welfare
214 Safety Building

I. Robert M. Shultz, Superintendent, Department of Recreation,
Sturdevant Building, 925 Main Street

Sidney G. Lutzin, Assistant Recreation Supervisor, New York
State Youth Commission, 30 Lodge Street, Albany 7

L. E. Kibler, Assistant Supervisor, Health and Physical Education
Safety and Recreation, State Board of Education

Miss Mabel Smith, Director, Women's and Girls' Activities, Parks
and Recreation Department

Selwyn Orcott, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks, Room
212, City Hall

Lloyd B. Hathaway, Superintendent, Department of Recreation

Paul S. Rose, Superintendent, Salt Lake County Recreation De-
partment, 5177 South State Street, Murray 7

Ellis S. McAllister, Director, Weber County Recreation Depart-
ment, 712 City and County Building, Ogden

Robert W. Crawford, Superintendent, Recreation Department,
Municipal Auditorium, 21-12th Street

M. C. Thiltgen, Superintendent, Recreation Department, Civic
Center

Merritt A. Nelson, Superintendent of Recreation, City Hall

Walter L. Scott, Director, Municipal and School Recreation, Long
Beach Recreation Commission, 715 Locust Street

Leonard F. Bright, Director, Department of Recreation, 1130
Lincoln Boulevard

C. W. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools, Coosa County

H. G. Greer, Superintendent of Schools, Monroe County

T. B. Pearson, Superintendent of Schools, Washington County

W. J. Jones, Superintendent of Schools, Wilcox County

T. H. Kirby, Superintendent, Opelika City Schools

E. M. Ward, Superintendent of Recreation, Park Commission

David DuBois, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, King
County, 608-A City County Building, Seattle

Greenville Community Council

T. A. Belser, Superintendent of Recreation, Room 108, City Hall

Miss Margaret B. Smith, Supervisor of Playgrounds and Com-
munity Centers, Department of Parks and Recreation

W. L. Fay, Superintendent of Recreation

Shore Neal, Superintendent, Park and Recreation Commission

Clinton L. Blake, Chairman, Western District, North Carolina
High School Drama Association, 1415 Beattie's Ford Road, Char-
lotte 6, North Carolina

Mrs. Gertrude Skow Sanford, Extension Specialist in Recreation,
Iowa State College of Agriculture, Ames, Iowa

Miss Anna M. Cooke, Supervisor, Negro Schools, Post Office Box
26, Warren County

*North Carolina Recreation Commission is participating in the sponsorship and planning of these training courses.

Attendance at training courses conducted by National Recreation Association leaders is usually open to all who wish to attend. For details as to location of the institute, contents of courses, registration procedure and the like, communicate with the sponsors of the courses as listed above.



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